Cannock
CHRONICLE

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WASTE FIRM FAILS TO STOP HOUSING

By Marion Brennan

A CONTRACTOR has won its battle to build more than 100 homes in Cannock despite a bid by bosses at a near-by waste treatment plant to block the development.

Building firm Project AML clashed with hazardous waste business Augean over their bid to construct 111 homes and a pub restaurant on land off Lakeside Boulevard in Bridgtown.

The Project AML scheme has now been given the go-ahead by Cannock Chase Council which ruled the need for homes took precedence.

Augean strongly objected to the homes' plan because of the hazardous nature of the waste it handles. Augean company director Edward Pigg said: "We believe that the risks of the site alongside homes are being deliberately ignored by the developer. The Cannock site was originally in a predominantly industrial area which unfortunately is being gradually eroded.

"The impact of our operations within the context of an industrial estate is entirely different to finding ourselves in close proximity to homes." The firm moved into Cannock 10 years ago and employs 22 people, having doubled its workforce since business picked up following the recession. It has a 'very high' turnover of waste, dealing with 100,000 tons a year.

Concern

It also has plans to expand the business, possibly turning the site into a 24-hour operation.

The new housing development will be made up of houses and three-storey blocks of flats, along with a restaurant.

Mr Pigg said the company's main concern was the risk from stray sparks from bonfires and fireworks, with the close proximity of gardens, if the development went ahead.

But the contractor said the homes offered the regeneration of a derelict site, and a commitment that at least 20 per cent of the homes would be affordable. Walsall Housing Group has been given a grant to buy homes there.

Project AML spokesman Rob Thorley said they were 'very conscious' of the proximity of Augean. "But the operation is low-key, well managed and not particularly noisy," he said. "The background noise from the M6 Toll road and other traffic is predominant."

The layout of the homes would mean the 'non-habitable' rooms, such as bathrooms and kitchens, as opposed to living rooms and bedrooms, would be closest to the industrial side of the estate.

The planning committee heard that existing residents in Bridgtown were unhappy about the inclusion of a games area in the plan, which they feared would encourage anti-social behaviour. Approving the development, committee members said they would reconsider the games area provision.

ROAD PEPPERED WITH POTHOLES 'WORST IN COUNTY'

Residents David Beardsmore and Julie Aston with Councillor Diane Todd take a look at the potholes in John Street, Winblebury

A POTHOLE-PITTED road which cuts through a Cannock housing estate has been labelled 'the worst in the county'.

The state of John Street, Wimblebury, has been rapidly deteriorating for two years.

Residents are furious that their requests for action have been put on hold while 'perfectly good' footpaths in the area are being resurfaced, they say. Resident David Beardsmore said: "The road is an absolute disgrace.

"It's full of potholes. I've reported them but nothing has been done about it.

"My main concern is that it's dangerous. I live off this road and use it a lot, and it's been getting worse for two or three years. It wouldn't be so bad if they weren't renewing all the footpaths in the area which have no need of replacement. It defies all logic."

The 68-year-old, of Adelaide Drive, which leads off John Street, said he had complained to the county council and was told that the potholes would be filled in 'late summer'.

Mr Beardsmore added: "I was totally gobsmacked. I couldn't believe they were prepared to leave it that long."

County and district councillor Diane Todd has herself complained to the highways department over the state of the road and says she has been given an assurance that John Street will be prioritised. She said: "The road is that bad it needs completely resurfacing.

"Driving down there is like going through a maze because of the way you have to keep dodging the potholes, sometimes driving on the wrong side of the road to avoid a hole.

"It is the worst road in the county." She said the county council's highways department had now promised to fill in the potholes imminently and resurface the road in August.

CONSULTATION

Sessions to look at fire service future

TWO drop-in sessions are to be held at Cannock fire station as part of an on-going consultation on how the service will operate in the future.

Representatives from the service will attend to discuss the options for change in more detail. The sessions will take place from 6pm to 8pm on May 6 and May 12.

Residents are being encouraged to drop in at any point. Local councillors have also been informed of the events.

People can also get involved by filling in a questionnaire at www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/3362.asp until May 22.

CELEBRATION

Learn the art of Maypole dance

THE Friends of Hednesford Park will be holding a Maypole celebration on Saturday.

The event offers the chance to learn the traditional form of dance, and will also feature face painting, Slam Wrestling, and Xtreme Trampolining.

Admission is free, and the event will run from 10am until 2pm.

Already announced to appear in the wrestling are Big Tim Burns, Layton Cole, British Champion James Terry, and Public Enemy.

HOUSING

Funds secured to help home buyers

FUNDING worth £200,000 has been secured towards helping more families in Cannock to take their first step onto the property ladder and buy their own homes.

The extra cash has been secured for the Cannock Chase right to buy social mobility scheme.

It follows an application from Cannock Chase Council to the Government.

Tenants can now receive up to £20,000 in a one-off payment.

The aim of the scheme is to support households who are unable to purchase their council home to buy a property on the open market.

INSIDE

BETTY BACK ON VIP DUTY AT 81

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New appointment is a first for APC

CEO Jonathan Smith

COURIER industry heavyweight Jonathan Smith has been announced as the new Chief Executive Officer of Cannock-based APC Overnight.

The move marks the first time in the company's 20-year history that someone from outside the business has taken the top position.

As managing director of DHL Domestic (UK), Mr Smith led the separation of the business from its global parent, as well as its integration with the Home Delivery Network. He was subsequently appointed as the new company's CEO, a position he held until 2012. He has also held other CEO roles both within and outside of the logistics sector.

Speaking about his new appointment, Mr Smith said: "APC Overnight has achieved impressive year on year growth for the last 20 years, including significant expansion and investment in 2012 that has helped the company accommodate increasing demand for its service.

"My first role as CEO will be to conduct an in-depth review of the company's operations, in order to develop a strategy on how APC Overnight can continue to expand into what has become one of the UK's most rapidly changing sectors." Former CEO Karl Brown will continue to sit on APC Overnight's board of directors as well as maintaining his position as chairman of his three APC Overnight depots – Direct Logistics, in Thorne and Express Logistics in Nottingham and Stockport.

Speaking about the new appointment Jon Barber, chairman of APC Overnight, said: "It has been a long-term aspiration of the business to appoint an independent external chief executive to take over the reins of the business and that was one of my main aims when taking on the role of chairman."

Centre switch to give residents more control

THE running of a Staffordshire community centre has been put in the hands of a town council – meaning greater control and more decisions for residents.

The day-to-day management of the Old Mining College in Chasetown will be transferred from Lichfield District Council by Staffordshire County Council, which owns the building.

The move will see Burntwood Town Council take over the site on June 1 for 35 years. The decision has been welcomed by Labour councillor Steve Norman, who said it was 'the best possible result for the residents of Burntwood'.

Previously, Lichfield District Council had a 25-year lease on the Queen Street premises but this has ended early due to budget constraints.

Councillor Norman said: "For too many years now, Lichfield District Council has failed to invest in this facility and, when their dire financial problems came to light last year, they couldn't wait to pull out.

Opportunity

"In fact, the county council says that the Old Mining College under the district's management 'is very tired and requires investment' and following the wholesale redundancies of their community development team, they have been unable to manage the building.

"Burntwood Town Council saw this as an opportunity to realise their ambition of developing better facilities for the whole of the Burntwood community."

District council leader Mike Wilcox said the management switch will give the town's residents an opportunity to take control of operations at the centre.

He praised town council chiefs for taking the lead in negotiations with the Staffordshire County Council.

The Old Mining College was built in 1912 by Staffordshire County Council to train mining apprentices. It was originally called the Mining Institute.

During the Second World War, it was used by the Chasetown Air Training Corps.

Lichfield District Council took it over in 1998 and it now operates as a venue for community meetings, training and office space.

Pupils' joy at smarter playgrounds

Teaching assistant Amanda Beard, left, with Luana Bills from Carillion and some of the children at the school

YOUNGSTERS were jumping for joy when they returned to school to find their playgrounds had been unexpectedly spruced up.

The newly painted playground at Bridgtown Primary School now features marked areas to play games like netball and hopscotch.

Construction workers from TJ Road Markings gave up their time for free to finish off the job, which would have cost the school in North Street about £6,000.

The workers from TJ Road Markings spruced up the infant playground which had become faded and added new markings to the junior playground allowing for a whole host of games and activities. Teaching assistant Amanda Beard said: "It was a complete surprise for the children.

"It could have cost anywhere between £5,000 to £6,000 if we had paid someone to do it." As well as brightening up break times, the new playground additions will also provide teachers with extra opportunities to conduct lessons outside. Mrs Beard added: "There are lots of new games the children can play now. But we can also use the markings for lessons particularly maths lessons using the number square."

The work was carried out by TJ Road Markings on behalf of construction company Carillion which is overseeing nearby roadworks and has already forged a partnership with the school including conducting lessons for pupils to inspire the next generation of engineers.

Appeal as Manford in new tribute to Stephen

JASON Manford has again paid tribute to Stephen Sutton and is urging people to keep giving to the charity for which the teenager raised millions of pounds.

The comedian previously backed the efforts of the inspirational 19-year-old, from Burntwood, posing for a thumbs-up selfie with the teenager, who helped to raise £5 million for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Stephen Sutton

Manford said on Facebook: "Remembering Stephen Sutton this week. It was a year ago when I first got involved with helping Stephen to achieve his aim of raising £1m for Teenage Cancer Trust. "Here's to you Stephen. If anyone would like to make another donation in his memory then please do." Stephen, who was diagnosed with bowel cancer at 15, created a 46-item bucket list, which included plans to raise £10,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. He died on May 14 last year.

His mother was among 38,000 people who completed the London Marathon on Sunday. Jane Sutton had been in training with the aim of continuing Stephen's legacy. Her fundraising total is almost £10,000 – a target she set in memory of Stephen's original target for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Jobs served up at McDonald's

MORE than 20 jobs are being created at a Cannock fast food restaurant following a revamp.

Self-service kiosks, digital menu boards and tablet computers are part of the new-look McDonald's branch off Watling Street that was shut for two weeks for the work to be carried out. A total of 22 jobs are being created.

The site in Linkway Retail Park has been given a hi-tech makeover. Customers also have access to free wi-fi facilities and there is a bright new decor.

McDonald's operations consultant Neil Reynolds said: "Towns and cities are having a tough time at the moment, so we're thrilled to be able to play our part and invest in the area to bring an extra boost to the economy here in Cannock."

Pedestrian hurt in collision with car

A PEDESTRIAN suffered a head injury when he was struck by a car in Norton Canes. The man also had a suspected arm injury. The incident happened in Lime Lane at around 8am on Thursday and his condition was not believed to be life-threatening.

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Facelift for park to get additional £200k aid

AN extra £200,000 is to be spent on sprucing up a much loved park in Staffordshire, it has emerged.

Hednesford Park is currently undergoing a £2.2 million facelift funded by Heritage Lottery cash.

The additional money will be spent on sports pitch improvements, with the funds coming from new levies charged to developers who win major building contracts in the district.

Councillor George Adamson, leader of Cannock Chase Council, who represents Hednesford, welcomed the cash.

He said: "The park will be totally transformed by the time all of the work is finished."

The revamp includes a refurbished pavilion featuring a community room, balcony and ground-floor café. A new skate park is also being created, as well as a new car park.

New tennis courts have already been installed and in November work began on a new network of footpaths around the site. The children's play area is also being updated.

Last February, an historic signal box dating back to the 1800s was moved to the park which has become its new permanent home.

The work is due to continue until 2017.

The move follows news of a £1.3m refurbishment of Heath Hayes Park in Cannock with money also coming from cash tied into developers' contracts.

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Elderly tricked by bogus driver

A MAN posing as a parcel delivery driver in Staffordshire has tricked elderly residents into giving their card details, prompting a police warning.

Staffordshire Police said it had happened several times in the past month in Burton, Lichfield and Tamworth.

The suspect poses as a parcel delivery driver wearing a convincing uniform and claims there is an outstanding delivery charge for a parcel which must be paid by card. The householder is asked to insert their card and input their PIN into a device.

After the payment fails he claims the card reader is broken and tells the victim the card must be removed with a special tool he has in his van.

He takes the card reader and card to his van and never returns.

Woman injured in two-car crash

A WOMAN was taken to hospital with suspected spinal injuries after being cut free from her Peugeot 207 which was in a collision involving a Ford Focus in Broadhurst Green Road, Cannock, at 1.30pm on Sunday.

Charity walk lined up for the Chase

Last year's event – 'a great day'

THE next annual Lupus Walk will be held on Sunday, May 10 on Cannock Chase.

Coinciding with World Lupus Day, the walk will follow two routes – a 'comfortable' two miles or a more challenging five miles – to appeal to different abilities and age groups.

Taking in some of Cannock Chase's best views in this area of outstanding natural beauty, the day's aim is to raise awareness of lupus, an incurable immune system illness, probably genetic in origin, and mainly suffered by females. It can affect any part of the body. Staffordshire-based The Hibbs Lupus Trust was established in 2011 by chairman John Hibbs, following the diagnosis of his sister Viki.

Family

The charity is run entirely by volunteers and all funds raised go directly to supporting patients with lupus in Staffordshire.

Starting at Marquis Drive, registration is open from 10am. "It's a day for all of the family," John said.

"RG Promotions are joining us again this year to compere the event; we have face painting and even a bouncy castle.

"Last year's event was a great day and we are keen to repeat its success.

"All we really need now is the support of the public to register and get walking for a good cause.

"Registration is £5 for adults, and children under 14 are free.

"However, all children need to be accompanied by an adult. Dogs are also very welcome."

John added: "To find out more or to register in advance, log on to www.hibbslupustrust.org"

Queen's Award delight for construction firm

A CONSTRUCTION company in Cannock has won the Queen's Award for Enterprise – the UK's highest accolade for business success.

Specialist builders Lakesmere Group was recognised for its outstanding performance in the overseas construction market which has seen exports soar.

Bosses say they are delighted. They have been invited to attend a reception at Buckingham Palace to pick up the award.

Chief executive Mark Davey said: "I am so pleased and honoured.

"This is fantastic recognition for all our people who have put in so much hard work and teamwork to make the business so successful. I cannot be more proud of this achievement."

The company, whose Cannock headquarters are at Kingswood Lakeside, was founded in 1993.

One of the UK's largest and most successful specialist contractors, it employs around 900 people across the group with current turnover in excess of £100 million.

Lakesmere's projects includes the London Aquatics Centre and the new Resorts World development at Birmingham's NEC.

Positive

The company has also worked on a number of high-profile contracts overseas in the Middle East and Asia markets.

Meanwhile, the Midcounties Co-operative is to receive a Queen's Award in recognition of its positive environmental initiatives, sustained growth and contribution to local communities it serves.

Groups in Staffordshire to benefit include Border Collie Trust GB, based in Rugeley, which received £2,000 to be spent towards the purchase of a van.

Cannock Cricket Club also benefited from a £600 handout, which funded new kit and equipment as well as coaching courses for two members.

The Midcounties Co-op, one of 12 companies to receive the Sustainable Development award, has been praised for saving more than £1 million a year through energy efficiency and waste recycling.

In the past decade it has also increased sales by 65 per cent to £1.2 billion and has distributed a total of £44m in profits as dividends to members.

Simon Davies, right, with Kieren Dorrington of Hednesford-based Gnarly Cycles which is supporting his charity ride from Twickenham to Monte Carlo

Simon to tackle an 800-mile cycle trek

A CYCLIST from Rugeley is getting on his bike for the Wooden Spoon children's charity.

Simon Davies will get in the saddle for an 800-mile ride from Twickenham Stadium to Monte Carlo.

The Wooden Spoon provides funds for disadvantaged children. Rugby fan Simon has volunteered for a number of years for the charity.

Now he has decided to take part in the organised bike ride that will see him pedal about 100 miles a day over the space of eight days.

The former West Midlands Police officer said: "It is a small charity that does a lot to help children. I'm looking forward to the challenge." To participate, the married father-of-three, of Windsor Close, has to contribute £3,000 to the charity.

Simon, who is now a sales executive, will set off from Twickenham on June 5.

The route to Monte Carlo includes the Loire Valley and the French Alps.

To support him in the London to Monte Carlo Cycle Challenge visit the website www.justgiving.com/simondaviesl2mc

NEWS IN BRIEF

Play tells story of school outing

A PRODUCTION company returns to Cannock's Prince of Wales Centre next week. Following the success of its previous offering 'Bouncers', Ambient Night Productions is now putting on Willy Russell's Our Day Out.

It tells the story of a group of inner-city children from the 'progress class' on a trip to Wales.

It will be performed next Thursday and Friday, May 7 and 8, at 7.30pm each night. Tickets are £10, £8 for school groups and parties of 10 or more, and can be purchased from boxoffice.wlct.org/ or on1543 578762.

Freedom to triple brewing capacity

A VILLAGE craft lager brewer based near Rugeley is to triple its capacity in a £1.5 million expansion project.

Freedom Brewery in Bagots Park, Abbots Bromley, is putting in new fermentation and maturation tanks as well as a brew house for triple-filtering beer. Director Andrew Taylor said the expansion was in response to a growing demand for craft beers.

Freedom's sales have increased by 400 per cent in the past five years.

The brewery employs more than 20 people, and produces both draught and bottled beers.

Worker airlifted after foot crushed

A MAN was airlifted to hospital after his foot was crushed at work.

The employee, in his 50s, was working at an industrial premises in Power Station Road, Rugeley, when the accident happened on Wednesday last week. An air ambulance took him to the Royal Stoke Hospital for emergency surgery.

An ambulance service spokeswoman said: "We responded to a call just before 6pm to reports of a man who had suffered crushing to the foot."

Police plea to drivers over sat nav thefts

SATELLITE navigation systems were stolen from cars during a spate of break-ins across the Cannock district.

Staffordshire Police are trying to trace the owners of the devices after vehicles were broken into in Lloyd Street, Rumour Hill Road and Park Street in the early hours of Friday, April 17.

Four men were arrested in connection with the thefts and they have all been released on bail pending further inquiries.

Walking in the Peaks

CHASE & District Group Ramblers are getting ready for a moderate/strenuous 10-mile walk on Sunday, taking in Tissington, Parwich, Alsop-en-le-Dale, Dovedale and Thorpe. Walkers should meet at Hednesford railway station for a prompt 9am departure. Call Barry on 01543 684254.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

"PERHAPS too much Cognac." Manager Michael Grange's priceless explanation of the fire at Oxford's famous Randolph Hotel, thought to have been caused by someone cooking a beef flambee.

THAT P-word keeps popping up. People keep banging on about "progressive" politics. Have you noticed how they never tell us what they are progressing towards?

HEADLINES of the future. April 22, 2035. Sir John Chilcot, aged 95, announces he is at last ready to release his long-awaited report into the Iraq War but, unfortunately, cannot remember where he put it. Lord Janner (106) says he entirely understands.

THE so-called "Trojan Horse" jewellery con trick reported this week involved a fake cabinet built in a hotel room with two drawers. A teenage member of the gang was concealed in the cabinet and the plan was to switch the contents, leaving the hapless jeweller with counterfeit money in exchange for £1.5 worth of gems. Police were tipped off about the scam and arrested the gang. But the only reason this gang, part of an international ring, had succeeded in earlier attempts was because some jewellers, instead of accepting money or credit cards at the shop, seem quite happy to attend dodgy meetings in hotel rooms with shady characters with briefcases full of millions of euros. So what's going on? It looks like tax dodging on a massive scale. A couple of years ago, faced with an epidemic of church-roof stripping and metal theft, the Government cracked down hard on backstreet scrapyards, demanding a paper trail of all transactions. Can we expect the same vigilance in dealing with jewellers with posh names and even posher addresses who seem to have a weakness for big bundles of used notes? If not, why not?

BALLOT Monkeys (C4) is a new political satire on the General Election which claims it is "so topical it hasn't been written yet." Oh, yeah? Some of the gags in the first episode had whiskers on them. Even so, it was a fair and funny effort. I loved the wonderful Sarah Hadland as the Ukip activist who can't open her mouth without going off-message (Breastfeeding? Yuk)

THIS week's rash of revelations about massive salaries and pay rises for senior NHS executives should surely focus minds on how the health service spends its money. Apparently not. When party leaders talk about the future of the NHS, they always pledge more money, as if the sole aim is to spend as much as possible. Isn't it obvious by now that the many-headed leviathan of NHS management is perfectly capable of absorbing every penny the nation throws at it (currently £115,000 million and rising),

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Appeal to promote debt advice

CANDIDATES standing to become the MP for Cannock Chase in next month's General Election are facing calls to make promoting free debt advice a priority, after a debt charity revealed it has received more than 500 calls for help from people with debt problems in the constituency since 2013.

A total of 568 calls for help from people in Cannock Chase were received by National Debtline, the free advice service run by charity the Money Advice Trust, during 2013 and 2014.

The number of calls from the constituency is higher than the national average.

In addition, the charity's Business Debtline service, which advises the self-employed and other small business owners, received 34 calls from businesses in the constituency last year. With research showing that only 17 percent of people with unmanageable debt in the UK seek advice, the need for debt help in Cannock Chase is likely to be far higher than these figures suggest.

The Money Advice Trust says that higher awareness of free debt advice in and around Cannock Chase could 'mean the difference between financial recovery and financial disaster'. After contacting National Debtline, 82 percent of people say they feel more in control and knowledgeable in managing their money.

As well as signposting constituents to seek advice from charity-run services many MPs take a pro-active role in promoting debt advice charities. National Debtline offers free advice via 0808 808 4000.

Mother's charity offers olive branch to needy

By Carl Jackson

IT started with a New Year's resolution to help 52 charities in 52 weeks. And now Marie Hayden has launched her own charity helping good causes 365 days of the year.

The mother-of-four from Cannock who runs Florida Sun Tanning and Beauty salon in Bridgtown raised £17,000 for charities and good causes last year. Mrs Hayden, aged 36, along with three friends, Rachael Shalloe-Cooper, Paula Williams and Vicky Mitchell, have now launched The Olive Circle Foundation. The aim is to help people in need in Staffordshire, the Black Country and the wider Midlands region.

She said: "What started out as something small, like giving a few tins to the food bank, has turned into something full-time.

"There is always something going on. After I did 52 charities in 52 weeks everyone said 'Are you going to take some time off now?' but I thought I am on a bit of a roll now.

"It is just about managing your time properly. I have just dropped my boys off at Beavers and I am sat outside answering emails instead of being at home watching Emmerdale. But for me charity work is my social life as well.

Suffer

"You meet a lot of people through doing it." Mrs Hayden, of Long Croft in Cannock, said her major issue with some national charities is that people did not always know exactly where their money goes. She has vowed that this would not be a feature of The Olive Circle Foundation.

She added: "The sort of people we really want to help are those that are lost in the system and suffer in silence when all they really need is something simple – like a disabled person who needs a surface lowered or alterations to their house but can't get it done because of red tape.

"We will still be helping charities but we will not simply be giving money away to people to spend on a holiday. We want to go out and investigate each case ourselves in person which is why we are focusing on the local area. Our motto is we want to support the needy and not the greedy."

Meanwhile, charity five-a-side football and netball tournaments are being held to raise funds for the Olive Circle Foundation. The football event for men's and women's teams is being staged at Goals Soccer Centre in Rowley Regis, on June 13. To enter, call 0121 561 3000. And a netball family fun day is being held at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre on July 5. Entry forms are available be emailing Westmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk

Follow events via @OliveCircle on Twitter or The Olive Circle Foundation on Facebook.

Marie Hayden, centre, has launched a new charity called The Olive Circle Foundation. She is pictured with, left, Rachael Shalloe-Cooper and Paula Williams

Family fun day at vets is fur charity

A VETERINARY surgeons in Rugeley is holding a family fun day next weekend in aid of the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity.

Donnachie & Townley will be putting on various activities at its practice in Market Street on Saturday, May 9 between 1pm and 4pm.

A pet portrait photo session will be staged with Andy from Hound 'Tog Photography, who will donate £5 to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People for every picture that is purchased.

Mobile Teddy Events will also be there, giving people the chance to have a souvenir of the day.

And, provided they are not called into duty on the day, Staffordshire Police sniffer dogs will be a start attraction. There will also be free face painting available on the day 'for kids and big kids alike'.

"We will have vets and nurses on hand to answer any questions you may have on the day, and will be happy to provide a tour of the practice for any interested visitors," a spokesman for the practice said.

"We will also be happy to provide any advice to those older children who are thinking of a career in the veterinary or nursing field.

"Come and pick our brains on how to get into these career paths and we can point you in the right direction."

Amber at the ready thanks to uni grant

A PROMISING footballer from Wimblebury has been awarded a university scholarship to help her progress in her career.

Amber Lawrence, aged 20, is currently playing for Doncaster Belles in the FA Women's Super League, alongside studying for a degree in sports studies at the University of Worcester.

Amber

She has recently been awarded financial assistance by the University's Scholarship Panel, which benefits students who undertake extracurricular activities in areas such as sport, music and the arts, as well as volunteering projects.

Amber, who joined the Belles from Burton Albion earlier this year, said: "The scholarship will be a massive help to my footballing career; it will help me with travelling costs and allow me to try to push forward my career. It's great that women's football is getting more recognition.

"Having lectures all week and making the trip up to Doncaster for training and games is tough, but I have the support of my family, some very good friends and the university, which I am grateful for."

Amber started playing aged eight and has progressed with stints at Stoke City, Wolves, Aston Villa and, most recently, Burton, where she was captain for two seasons.

Safety sessions for motorcyclists

A WORKSHOP to help reduce the number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured on the road is to be held in Cannock this summer.

Developed with the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership,the Pathway to Rider Development session will be staged at Motorcycle Essentials, on Prospect Business Park, Longford Road, on July 25.

Pc John Edmondson, from Staffordshire Police, said: "The Rideby5 workshop is designed to encourage riders to take a look at their own skills and abilities."

Workshops will also be held in Stafford on May 30 and Stoke-on-Trent on June 27. Anyone who is interested in being considered to attend Stage 1 RideBy5 is asked to email RideBy5@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Lessons in tracing family tree on offer

A NEW course of lessons on how to trace a family tree is to be run at Burntwood Library.

No previous knowledge is needed, but some computer skills are an advantage. Call 01543 684208 or email pam.woodburn@talktalk.net

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Passengers facing rail disruption at weekend

SERVICES on some rail routes will be affected this weekend due to planned improvement works.

Passengers in the West Midlands are being urged to check before they travel as journeys will take longer and involve replacement buses.

Among the routes on which London Midland services will be affected on Saturday, Sunday and Monday are Birmingham New Street-Wolverhampton; New Street-Shrewsbury; New Street- Liverpool Lime Street; and London Euston-Crewe.

Steven Fisher, London Midland's head of regional services, said: "There isn't an ideal time for improvement works to take place, but we have worked closely with Network Rail and other affected train operators to ensure that passengers are kept up to date and that disruption is kept to a minimum. These works are part of Network Rail's £250 million Stafford Area Improvements Programme."

Passengers will have to contend with disruption caused by a big programme of Network Rail engineering work over the May Day bank holiday weekend – with Wolverhampton and Stafford stations among those affected.

Passengers using some Virgin Trains, CrossCountry, Transpennine Express (TPE) and Arriva Train Wales services will also be affected.

For details of the alternative arrangements over the holiday weekend or to find out more about the Stafford Area Improvements Programme, visit londonmidland.com/stafford

Drivers targeted in safety scheme

DRIVERS in Staffordshire are being reminded that '20 is Plenty' as part of a road safety campaign near schools.

The scheme is run by Staffordshire County Council and encourages motorists to drive at a maximum of 20mph. Speed Indication Devices (SIDs), which display the speed of a vehicle as it passes by, are used to urge drivers to slow down.

This term 16 Staffordshire schools will be taking part, including Ridgeway Primary, Burntwood, Heath Hayes Primary, Cannock and John Bamford, Rugeley.

County councillor Mark Winnington, for economy, environment and transport, said: "Our 20 is Plenty scheme is one of many campaigns we run that help to keep our roads safe."

Real ale on tap at city beer festival

The Lichfield Springtime Beer Festival is being held at the Guildhall on from noon to 11pm on May 1 and 2.

Entry is £2 before 6pm and £3 after. Visit www.lichfieldarts.org.uk or call 01543 262223.

Family pays tribute to tragic rider

Crash victim Tom Zmiko

The parents and wife of a 26-year-old motorcyclist killed in a crash in Penkridge have paid tribute to an 'honest and hardworking man'.

Tom Zmiko, died following a collision with a 4x4 vehicle while on his motorcycle in Teddesley Road, on Easter Monday, April 6.

The father-of-two, known to friends as 'Tommo', lived in Oaks Drive, Featherstone, and was riding a Kawasaki when it was in a collision with a Toyota Land Cruiser. The driver of the Toyota was not injured. Mr Zmiko was resuscitated by paramedics after going into cardiac arrest and was airlifted to Royal Stoke University Hospital. He died shortly after arrival. His devastated wife, Sonja Zmiko, and his parents, Glynic and Jovan, said he 'lived for his family' and would 'help anyone at any time' and 'nothing was too much trouble'.

Mr Zmiko was an organ donor, and has helped five people and their families.

His family said they were extremely proud of Tom and take comfort in knowing that the recipients are doing well, which means that part of Tom will continue to live on. The family also thanked those who tried to help Tom after the collision, and the support that they have received during a very tragic time.

His parents and wife said they were overwhelmed by the number of tributes. Mr Zmiko was a member of the Midlands Riders motorcycle club, based in Telford. Fellow members rode in his memory from Shifnal to Matlock Bath, raising more than £1,000. Friends and family launched a fundraising appeal to help pay for the funeral costs. It now stands at £2,360.

Supermarkets burglar loses plea on verdict

A BURGLAR from Cannock who cut through a pipe designed to move cash securely from tills in a supermarket before escaping with almost £15,000 has seen his bid for freedom turned down.

Michael Bryon, aged 36, of Mosswood Street, was jailed for four years for the burglary of a Sainsbury's last year. A hearing at London's Appeal Court refused his bid to get his conviction overturned.

It was told that in supermarkets it is common practice for cash to be transferred from the tills to the secure cash office in containers called 'flight pods'. And in January last year, staff at Sainsbury's in Bury St Edmonds, Suffolk, discovered a number of flight pods were arriving empty at the cash office.

Police were called and discovered burglars had cut the vacuum tube in the roof void and extracted the contents of several pods before putting empty containers back in the tube.

Tape was used to fill the holes where the vacuum tube was cut and it was on the tape that a mixed DNA match was found with the major portion of it matching Bryon's.

Similar

Crown counsel Lindsay Cox described the burglars' methods as 'ingenious and irregular'.

Barrister Jonathan Goodman, representing Bryon, argued his conviction was 'unsafe' and should be overturned. He said details of Bryon's previous conviction for a similar burglary, at Tesco in Swindon, should not have been given to the jury. It was not right for Bryon to be found guilty on the basis of the DNA evidence alone, the court was told.

Refusing the application, Lord Justice Jackson said: "In our view the bad character evidence against Bryon was properly admitted.

"It seems to us that the method of committing burglary at Swindon, and the method of committing burglary at Bury St Edmunds, were exactly the same.

"In our view the evidence of the previous conviction was properly admitted."

The judge, sitting with Mr Justice Nicol and Judge Peter Collier QC, added: "The evidence of bad character was not bolstering a weak case, it was supporting a strong one."

A previous court hearing was told staff had discovered £14,800 was missing after realising that 23 cash transport pods which had been sent from tills were empty.

Street is closed for 12 weeks

Market Street is closed to through traffic during a water mains improvement scheme

Market Street in Hednesford is to be closed to drivers for up to 12 weeks.

South Staffs Water has begun the second half of its water mains improvement scheme.

During the work, pedestrians have been assured they will still be able to access Market Street while diversions for vehicles are in place along the town's Victoria Street onto Rugeley Road. Those looking to visit Market Street by car can park at Tesco, Aldi or the Co-op.

Souths Staffs Water has said vehicles will be able to access shops and businesses but to ensure the work is carried out as safely and efficiently as possible it will be necessary to close Market Street to through traffic.

Mike Morris, network performance manager for South Staffs Water, said: "We apologise for any inconvenience during the work and are confident, following the work, Market Street will enjoy the improvements to their water supply for a long time to come.

"Recent bursts in the area highlight the importance of completing phase two to ensure customers and local businesses continue to receive a reliable, high-quality water supply."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Warning on fake festival tickets

FESTIVAL-GOERS are being warned to avoid buying tickets from unofficial sources as trading standards officers launch a crackdown on fakes.

Staffordshire County Council experts have issued the advice as tickets go on sale for some of this summer's major events, including the V Festival at Weston Park. People could be at risk of spending hundreds of pounds on counterfeits, they warn.

Anyone who suspects fake merchandise is being sold in Staffordshire should contact a confidential helpline on 01785 330356.

Charlie Dimmock at garden centre

TV personality Charlie Dimmock will be visiting the Hollybush Garden Centre in Shareshill on Sunday.

The gardening celebrity will be giving a demonstration on plant potting and host a question-and-answer session from 11.30am.

Steve Hallett, general manager of Hollybush Garden Centre, said: "Charlie is a well-trusted gardening celebrity with years of gardening experience.

"We are delighted that she's coming to Hollybush to impart her gardening wisdom and take part in our events."

Bank holiday sales at village market

TWO Bank holiday markets, with car boot sales, are being held in Penkridge next month.

The events will run from 9am to 3pm on May 4 and 25, and admission and parking are free. Car boot sale traders should turn up from 7am.

The Easter Monday market attracted thousands of customers and a record number of car booters.

For further information, call 01785 714221 or visit www.penkridgemarket.co.uk

Judging to start on 'Best Kept' contest

JUDGING for Staffordshire's Best Kept Village competition starts tomorrow (Friday).

Some 58 villages have entered, two short of the 60 hoped for to celebrate its the contest's Diamond anniversary.

The first and second rounds of judging will run until June 22. The three best large and three best small villages go forward to the area finals.

The 10 overall best villages will be judged again before the winners are announced on August 3.

Legion ceremony

THE Great Wyrley branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding a thanksgiving ceremony at 3pm on Sunday, May 10 to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day. It will take place at the gates of the Memorial Gardens in Great Wyrley, on the corner of the A34 and Jones Lane. All are welcome.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Political advice – from a murderer

STILL wondering which way to vote in the election? Seeking wise counsel on where to put your cross come polling day?

Fear not. Moors murderer Ian Brady has entered the debate, and has put his thoughts on paper. Apparently, he believes most professional criminals are Tory voters, he says David Cameron represents "the usual mob-pleasing PR drivel expected from such bovines", and believes David Dimbleby is an "establishment dumpling". Suffice to say, he is not very fond of Ed Miliband either, although it's probably best not to go into his rather offensive thoughts on that matter.

Apparently, Brady hasn't read a newspaper since 1998, and keeps up to date by watching the Middle East television channel Al Jazeera – don't you just reckon they will be thrilled with that endorsement? Still, it's wise to remember all this next time the European Court of Human Rights starts banging on about giving prisoners the vote.

❐❐❐❐❐

A FEW weeks ago, a note from the council contractors landed on the doormat informing us that the road would be resurfaced. Among other things, it boasted how environmentally friendly the new resurfacing process would be. I know we have to take care of the wildlife these days, but was it really necessary to carefully lay the asphalt around a dandelion?

❐❐❐❐❐

THE problem with many of the email scams is that very often it is very hard to tell what is genuine. I received a communication supposedly from B&Q, telling me how it was "the perfect place to choose a new shade of paint, invest in some kitchen cabinets, or simply buy a few plants for the garden". It also told me that if I clicked on the attached link, I might be in with the chance of winning a £500 voucher. However, I think on this occasion, it might not be all it seems. I'm really not convinced that bq@yazmin.homeybottom.com is an official B&Q email address.

❐❐❐❐❐

MORE weirdness from the world of education. Turnham Primary School in south-east London is now insisting that all three-year-olds must now sign a contract guaranteeing that that they will be tolerant of various things, including "race, gender, class, ability, faith, sexual orientation or lifestyle", and that they must "refrain from using transphobic language in the school."

I suppose we should be impressed by the fact that all the children are presumably able to read and write at such a tender age of three, although it does not say what action they take if they breach the agreement. Court proceedings to confiscate their yo-yos, perhaps?

But really, isn't it stretching things a bit far?

College principal Mark Robertson

Work continues on the former Royal Hospital site

Work on the Royal Hospital building

College would be a right Royal match

It's rumbled on for years – but campus talks bring glimmer of hope to rundown hospital area, as Pete Madeley explains

IT is a saga that has dragged on for more than 14 years.

Having been the subject of a long-running courtroom battle between two supermarket giants, the former Royal Hospital site in Wolverhampton looked set to house a new £60m Tesco store.

But the cash-strapped firm pulled the plug on the deal in January, taking away the promise of 600 jobs and the chance to breathe new life into the rundown All Saints area.

Now, a glimmer of hope has emerged with the news that the site could finally be brought back into use as a multi-million pound campus for the City of Wolverhampton College.

Derelict

It is a pairing that could be viewed as the perfect match. A new campus rising from the ground at the derelict site, mirroring the college's surge from failing to becoming a jewel in the city's crown.

Three years ago it was branded as inadequate by Ofsted, with the quality of teaching criticised and success rates condemned as being well below national standards.

It is now classed as good with a number of outstanding features and is rated as one of the top colleges in the country in terms of success rates for 16 to 18-year-olds.

Last year a glowing report from the Further Education Commission said the college had repositioned itself as 'part of the fabric of the city'.

It is a major turnaround, masterminded in a relatively short space of time by principal Mark Robertson, who took over in 2013.

He said the rise in fortunes was down to 'high quality staff' having a shared belief that the situation could be improved. Student achievement has risen across the board, and the college's links with industry have led to some of its vocational courses being over-subscribed.

The Royal Hospital as many will remember it from years ago

According to Mr Robertson, improving resources at the college's sites across the city had been pivotal in improving standards, citing a half-a-million pound investment in IT equipment as an example.

He said: "I'm thrilled at how much we have improved. It has had a great impact on the life chances of our students and as a result on the city as a whole."

He is now working towards ensuring the college gains the top level 'outstanding' rating next time Ofsted inspectors turn up at the door.

The college is seeking a new home near the city centre having outgrown its current campus in Paget Road. It plans to fund the proposed move using cash from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's Growth Fund, which aims to kick-start major developments across the region.

And while the principal has stressed that discussions over a new location are still very much ongoing, many will see the Royal site as a good fit for the college. Sources close to the plan, said bosses were in talks about taking over the site.

Councillor John Rowley, who represents Blakenhall on Wolverhampton City Council, said the move would be a positive one for the whole city.

"I'd be very supportive of this move should it get off the ground," said Councillor Rowley, a former governor at the college.

"They opened the very successful Metro One campus in the city centre and demand for courses there has expanded enormously.

"The Royal Hospital site is very close to the city centre and there is huge potential there. I think if the college were to make its home there it would be very positive for Wolverhampton."

It is believed the site is one of four that are coming under consideration by college bosses.

Earlier this month it emerged that Tesco had put the 10-acre site up for sale in a bid to claw funds back into its dwindling accounts.

In the meantime, the firm has continued to work on the site and other nearby buildings to make it more attractive to prospective developers and new owners.

Target

Plans are in place to demolish the former New Cleveland Club on the corner of Cleveland Road and Hospital Street, along with its adjoining cafe and ex-pub the Newmarket Hotel.

College bosses have set a target to open its new campus in 2018. As yet the Paget Road campus is still not on the market.

It is one of a number of educational establishments in Wolverhampton that are planning big moves.

Across the city the University of Wolverhampton has unveiled plans to build a new £60m super campus at the former Springfield Brewery site.

It will become the home of the new West Midlands Construction University Technical College as part of the university's Springfield campus.

Meanwhile two schools - The British Sikh School and the Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre - are set to share the site of the former Tarmac premises in Millfields Road from September 2016.

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Talented Alex sprays for a work of art

Alex Nix-James stands beside his graffiti work of art on one of the school's storage containers

LOCAL lad Alex Nix-James has completed a stunning piece of graffiti art at a school in Rugeley.

The 18-year-old, currently an art student at Rugeley Sixth Form Academy, responded to a request from Chase View Primary School looking for talented students to transform the appearance of one of its drab looking steel storage containers. Alex responded by using spray cans, and the only problem was juggling his time between his A-level studies and the new project.

With the recent spell of good weather, he managed to complete the transformation within two weeks. ChaseView pupils have described the artwork as 'wicked'.

Cemetery scheme on hold

PLANS to extend a cemetery have been put on hold after a water spring was found beneath the site.

The proposed 500-plot graveyard on farmland next to the existing cemetery at St James The Great Church in Church Road, Norton Canes, was expected to provide enough burial space for the next 70 years.

The scheme was due to get the go-ahead despite objections from ramblers and neighbours but it has now been withdrawn.

The application was put forward by Norton Canes Parish Council on the grounds that the churchyard has only a four-year supply of plots left.

The Ramblers Association objected on the grounds that a public footpath crossing the churchyard could be obstructed.

Other objections were related to noise, potential impact on wildlife and loss of privacy and views. Residents were also concerned about the impact on property prices.

Councillor Maureen Freeman, a member of Cannock Chase Council's planning committee, said: "A spring has been discovered under the ground, and the applicants have withdrawn the scheme until they have investigated whether or not it would affect their plans."

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Memorial pictures required

I AM acting on behalf of the authorities at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan, South Korea where over 800 British Servicemen are buried.

The authorities there wish to obtain photographs of those servicemen interred there and, of those who died but have no known grave.

They will be attached to their records and will be displayed on the walls of the Cemetery Hall of Remembrance for all time.

Any family who lost a loved one in the Korean War 1950-53 and wish to take part can send the photograph to me – James Grundy 102 College Croft, Eccles, Manchester, M30 0AN, or for further details phone 0161 789 7633 or email james.grundy102@yahoo.com

You can also contact Brian Hough on 0161 368 5622 or 07467 037742. May I thank you for any help that you can give on this matter.

JAMES GRUNDY
Manchester

Park marred by foul-mouthed teens

AM I alone in feeling that come the evening time (post-5pm), Hednesford Park and the underground parking area of Tesco has become a breeding ground for foul mouthed abusive and intimidating teenage yobs?

I took my child to the park after 5pm the other day, to enjoy the sunny day together in Hednesford Park.

We were met by a group of teenagers hogging the big slide, throwing food everywhere, and blocking the younger children from going on the ride. I actually went on the slide with my child to move them out of the way.

Minutes later they were using foul, abusive language, for which I had to reprimand them. Rewind 50 years ago, I would quite happily clip them around the earhole and send them on their way, but kids are too mollycoddled nowadays with no fear of authority.

There's no discipline in many of their homes, no discipline in the schools, and the result is a generation of these foul mouthed disrespectful feral teenagers.

Where are the Community Support Officers? Isn't it their job to put a stop to this kind of anti social behaviour? Why is there no CCTV on the park?

I shall no longer shop atTesco in the evening or take my child to the park until this anti-social scourge is cleared up for good. Otherwise I will be the one arrested for giving them a clout round the earhole. The park should be for children only, not for groups of foul-mouthed feral teenagers.

Mark D, Cannock

Benefit cap cut will cause more hardship

THE Tories' plan to cut £12 billion from welfare benefits will fall on the disabled people and carers, including many low-income households and vulnerable people. They also plan to limit child benefit to two children. There are already 3.5 million children in the UK living in poverty – one million more than when the Con/Dem`s came into office.

Further reducing the benefit cap will cause more hardship and family break-ups. In cities like London with soaring rents, the current cap is forcing people out of their homes, and the Government's bedroom tax has already driven people out of social housing. In Cameron`s 'broken Britain' a family loses their home every 11 minutes.

While low income households are being smashed, the super rich are laughing all the way to the bailed out banks. George Osborne claims he is getting tough on rich tax dodgers. But his claims do not match reality.

COUNCILLOR PAUL WITTON
Cannock South

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Lords more influential

WITH reference to the letter from Roy of Rugeley (April 19) he complains that the two-party system does not give him sufficient choice. While the House of Lords is there in its present form, there will never be choice as far as democracy is concerned. In the House of Lords we have an unelected body that has as much influence (possibly more) than the elected members of Parliament.

MIKE DAVEY
Rugeley

Blame the system for difficulties

POLITICIANS blame each other for economic crises, but are careful not to expose the real cause – the system itself.

Since the global banking crisis seven years ago, our national debt has increased by a trillion. The coalition claimed to be economically competent, but in their five years of government they doubled the national debt.

All are agreed of the need for deficit reduction, but the deficit is not the debt, which has existed for 321 years. Every government is indebted to the Bank of England, which demands borrowing in order to favour the banker, albeit at the expense of the taxpayer.

National debt is the backbone of capitalism. The only solution to economic crises is full public ownership of the means of producing wealth. A nationalised banking system would ensure that created wealth is no longer converted into debt.

K WILCOX
Burntwood

Rail reopenings do rely on other factors

I BELIEVE calls to reopen various urban railway lines is based on a false assumption – that the success of a railway reopening depends simply on population density.

Locally, we could look at two reopenings of lines around Walsall – one a huge success, the other a dismal failure – to test the idea that population density is the key issue.

The Cannock Chase line has proved highly successful – with an attendant problem of overcrowded trains – and is soon to be electrified. By contrast, the reopening of the Walsall-Wolverhampton line, in a much more densely populated area, was a short-lived failure.

The comparative merits of bus, train and private car depend on issues such as frequency of service, ease of use and distance to bus stop or railway station.

A T HARRISON
Walsall

Options on cutbacks faced by fire service

WHY can't prospective parliamentary candidates (or anyone else trying to get into public office) stick to the facts?

I don't remember seeing Janos Toth at the recent fire brigade consultative meeting I attended along with other residents where the two options were:

1. Remove the second appliance. 2. Remove the second appliance and the high-pressure pump.

There was a hypothetical option that if they were just setting up the Staffordshire Fire Brigade there would possibly be no appliance at Rugeley, but as I said they said it was only hypothetical.

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History of racing in spotlight

Landor Society

THE history of horse racing in Hednesford was the subject of a talk by local historian Anthony Hunt at the Society's April meeting.

There is evidence of 10 racing stables in Hednesford in the middle of the 19th century. The reason for so many in the area was that there are hills which afford good drainage and therefore it would be possible to train 365 days of the year. It was also a good agricultural area.

One horse trained in Hednesford, Flintoff, only raced 29 time and won 21 races. He was sold in 1833 and never won again.

A well known name in Hednesford is Tom Coulthwaite, who Anthony said was the best trainer ever. He recognised that every horse needed to be trained individually. He trained three Grand National winners.

The society's summer outings commence in May, the first being a First World War walk with Stephen Dean.

Contact Glenys for 01889 586040 for further details.

Dora shows all the right moves at 99

Soroptimist pals wish a happy birthday to Dora Leighton, aged 99

Cannock Soroptimists

DORA Leighton is known to so many people in Cannock – as a dance tutor she taught many moves to a lot of them.

On April 3, Dora celebrated her 99th birthday.

She has been a member of Soroptimist International of Cannock & District for 47 years, has served on many committees and has held the office of president. She is still a keen member, attends most events, has an incredibly positive outlook on life and is ready with her point of view when required.

President Janis Lomas and club members were keen to mark this special occasion – they did it by a surprise visit from at Dora's hairdressers. Christine Smith-Toon, herself a member of SI Cannock and owner of Teddy's hair salon in Cannock, has dressed Dora's hair for many years and welcomed club members when they arrived with cake and gifts.

Christine had already decorated the salon with balloons and birthday banners. Dora was absolutely delighted to see everyone and thrilled with the cards, flowers and gifts.

She is looking forward to continuing her enjoyment of life in this, her 100th year.

Chairman Val hands over chain of office

Cannock Townswomen's Guild

THE last meeting was the AGM and present chairman Val Beale announced her retirement from the post.

She thanked secretary Sue Evans, treasurer Gillian Gethin, and committee members for their support over the last two years. She presented the chain of office to the new incumbent Gillian Loftus.

The speaker for the evening was Sue Smith OBE, past national chairman for the Townswomen's Guild. Sue was awarded the OBE in 2014 for her contribution to the guild having been a constant campaigner and advocate for more than 40 years.

She brought along her medal and said that recipients were not allowed to know who nominated them. She told everyone about the formalities and excitement of attending Buckingham Palace with her family to receive the award.

The vote of thanks was given by Pauline Martin.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at St Luke's School, New Penkridge Road, Cannock.

For further details contact 01543 506347.

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We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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FOCUS ON RUGELEY

Guest house is in line for two awards

A GUEST house near Rugeley has been shortlisted for the final at a national tourism awards ceremony.

Colton House, in Colton, is celebrating being nominated for Bed & Breakfast/Guest Accommodation of the Year and the Sustainable Tourism Award, in two categories at the Visit England Awards for Excellence.

The business is one of three Staffordshire companies shortlisted.

The Gladstone Pottery Museum in Stoke-on-Trent and Simply Staffordshire in Uttoxeter are nominated for one category each. Ron Lawrence, owner of Colton House, said: "I'm thrilled that VisitEngland has recognised the way we live our lives, run our business, work with the community, use local business and push the boundaries of sustainability."

Graeme Whitehead, of Destination Staffordshire, said: "This is fantastic news that three of our award winners have gone on to be recognised by VisitEngland." All three will go forward to an awards ceremony on May 11.

Firefighter retires after 30 years

Graham Jones celebrates with firefighters Pete Aitkenhead and Matt Greensill at Rugeley fire station

He has seen his fair share of heart-warming tales as well as tragedies in his time as a part-time fire fighter.

Now Graham Jones is retiring after more than 30 years of service. The former miner from Rugeley joined Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service while he worked in the mines at the old Lea Hall Colliery.

Since then he has fought many blazes in a career that also saw him travel with Rugeley's specialist high volume pump engine to major incidents in other parts of the country.

The grandfather-of-two, who became an electrician when the coal mine closed in 1991, says he wants to spend more time now with his grandchildren, Sean, three, and Harry, one.

He celebrated his retirement at Rugeley fire station, in Bryans Lane, with a party with colleagues and family.

Design firm in £1m work on campus

A CREATIVE firm from Rugeley has completed a contract for the £1 million revamp of student leisure facilities at a top university.

GMP Design has refurbished new social learning and leisure facilities for 20,000 students at Teeside University, based in Middlesbrough.

Neil Morton, managing director of the company, was a design student at the university nearly 30 years ago and set up GMP Design, on the Towers Business Park, 22 years ago.

He said: "This was an excellent contract to get from my old university. We have worked on student facilities all over the UK and have become specialists in the field. Many features of the design are unique."

The plans have included specially designed student pods for study or socialising, all fitted with USB sockets. There are also screens with special lighting effects. The Staffordshire company has worked on venues around the world including the world famous Ministry of Sound nightclubs.

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Having a hoot – owls about to go on show

SEVEN burrowing owls are settling into their new home at an animal centre – with visitors able to see them for the first time this weekend.

The parliament of owls are being temporarily housed at South Staffordshire College's Rodbaston Campus in Penkridge.

It is part of wider plans to create a World Owl Centre somewhere in the West Midlands where the owls will be permanently based. Bird owners The World Owl Trust is the world leader in owl conservation and is relocating to the region from its present home at Muncaster Castle, in Cumbria.

Six female burrowing owls and one male are the first to arrive at the Animal Zone at Rodbaston from the Lake District. Work has been carried out to create new aviaries for the feathered guests – with a total of 100 heading Rodbaston's way.

Advanced

The owls will all be moved, along with another 100 owls, to their new permanent home some time next year – possibly Himley Hall near Dudley.

World Owl Trust board member and volunteer Alan Peace said: "The trust is in advanced negotiations for a lease from Dudley Council to take over the old walled garden at Himley Hall.

"If it goes ahead, then it will take at least a year to build the permanent aviaries and get the site developed.

"It is probably the best collection of owls in the country. The trust is the only organisation devoted exclusively to the conservation of owls."

The other 100 owls will be put up at centres across the country until a permanent home is found for the 50 species that are looked after by the trust that was set up 27 years ago.

Burrowing Owls are the first to arrive of the 200 flock due at Rodbaston College

Changes to Arriva services

CHANGES have been introduced on a number of bus services in the Cannock area.

Arriva Midlands says the move is to ensure a 'punctual, reliable and regular bus service that our customers expect and deserve'.

Timetables have been revised on the Sapphire services 1 and 1A.

Meanwhile, services 60 and X60 have seen timetable alterations on Monday to Saturday early morning and evening journeys, and daytime journeys Monday to Saturday respectively. Service 74 between Cannock and Stafford Technology Park is running on a revised route and to a new timetable.

Service 75 has been truncated to run between Cannock and Penkridge only, with buses running up to every 60 minutes daily during the daytime.

Service 76 linking Stafford with Wolverhampton via Penkridge also follows a revised route and runs to a new timetable, with Monday to Saturday evening buses renumbered 76A.

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Tribute to pub landlord and former pro wrestler

A FORMER professional wrestler and well-known pub landlord has died. Ian Stenner was 64.

Tributes have been paid to Mr Stenner, who was originally from Wolverhampton but lived in Cannock for many years and adopted the name Pat Patton when he turned pro-wrestler in 1977.

He was known for wearing brightly-coloured judo outfits working for Join Promotions under promoter Max Crabtree during the 1980s. He made his television debut in 1979 on ITV's World of Sport and went on to make 40 appearances.

Wolves fan Ian also worked in the pub trade with his wife Susan, 65, and retired from the ring in 1987 to concentrate on working for Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries.

Practise

Together they ran The Apple Tree in Coseley and Samson Blewitt in Hednesford for 18 months each but spent the majority of their career , 17 years, at The White Hart in Cannock.

Mr Stenner died on April 2 from pneumonia a year after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

Mrs Stenner, who was married to Ian for 43 years, said her husband enjoyed life to the full.

"When he started wrestling it was a big shock for me. He met a chap in the industry called Johnny Holt, who was known as Johnny England in the ring, and used to practise with him at lunchtime at work.

"Ian went with him to Manchester for a trial and came back and said he was going to start. It was a big shock.

"I did enjoy it, and used to go at the weekend to see him. When he got his first TV appearance that was a big honour for him and he wrestled at the Royal Albert Hall for a match. He became Big Daddy's tag team partner and was very well regarded in wrestling and the pub trade."

Mr Stenner is survived by two sons Simon, 42 and Craig, 49, as well as four grandchildren. He had two sisters Susan, 60, and Anne, 57.

When he retired in 2004, he enjoyed travelling and loved his holidays to America in particular. Mrs Stenner said: "We had a good life in the pub trade doing what we wanted to do. Ian was quite loud and everyone knew when he was about. He was fun, fun loving, kind, and enjoyed life to the full.

"He was a big Wolves fan and enjoyed going down to watch them. He will be greatly missed."

Pat Patton in his wrestling days

Pat and Susan behind the bar

Ian Stenner, known as Pat Patton, with his wife, Susan, in 2013

Janos TOTH

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- Freeze gas and electricity bills until 2017. This means energy bills will go down but not up.
- Provide 25 hours free childcare each week to 3 and 4 year olds of working parents.
- Scrap the Bedroom Tax.
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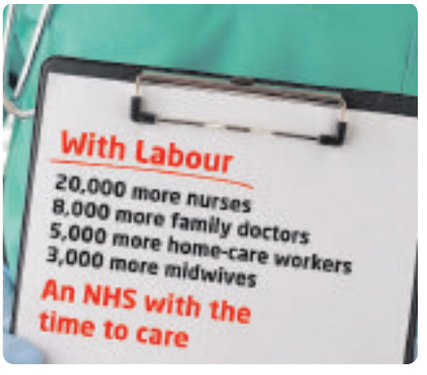

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Farm's popularity contest for election

Richard Simkin, owner of Essington Fruit Farm, takes a look at the Swine-Ometer

WHOSE political bacon are you going to save in this General Election?

You could draw a cross inside the Conservapig box, show support for Laboar or even decide you want UPIG to win – if you pay a visit to Essington Fruit Farm.

The farm has opened its annual Swine-Ometer up for the general public to share their party preference before May 7.

The site, which includes a butchery, wants people to cast their vote in reception depending on who they want to see in power, with the relevant wooden pigs moving closer to a trough the more votes they get.

Farm owner Richard Simkin said: "Last time out the Swine-Ometer was very popular and actually quite close to how the general election turned out.

"This is just a bit of fun, nothing malicious against politicians, we do it every election and everyone has a good laugh about it.

"The politicians have their job to do, and we like to have a bit of fun around that."

People visiting the farm are greeted by a sign asking them whose bacon they will save, and who will be getting the chop, upon arrival.

Mr Simkin says this year's competition is very closely fought.

He said: "The UPIG party are doing quite well, they have had a strong showing. It is pretty much neck and neck between Laboar and Conservapig, but the Pigeral Democrats haven't had a good showing.

"The Greeny Pig party have done quite well this time, and we have had a lot of people who are too disgruntled to vote, which is quite worrying, I imagine.

"On a serious note, what I noticed last time is that people are happy to vote for one of the smaller parties in the weeks leading up to the election but by the time it comes around a lot more are voting for the major parties.

"I think it is the realisation of what government you are going to be waking up with the morning after."

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"In order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men [and] gives it to whomever He will." Daniel 4 v 17

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Betty, 81, opens new garden at Roller Mill

A SPECIAL sensory garden has been opened at a Penkridge day centre.

One of the longest-serving volunteers at the Roller Mill centre, Betty Breakell, aged 81, performed the opening ceremony on Friday. The garden is for centre guests who have dementia and other complex needs.

A Roller Mill spokesman said the sensory garden had been made possible thanks to 'an investment of time, fundraising and grants' by staff, guests, and volunteers from the Prince's Trust. A grant was also received from Staffordshire County Council. The garden has been designed to provide 'a very accessible, involving, safe environment' for guests.

It includes raised beds, herbs, vegetable plants – which will be used in the Roller Mill kitchen – level paving for wheelchair access and sheltered seating. There is also a bird table and bird bath.

Presented

Where possible, centre guests will be involved with the planting.

On the same day as the launch, Age UK chairman Hazel Moss was presented with the charity's successful re-accreditation to Investors in People. She was also presented with certification following a rigorous inspection process to meet Age UK's Organisational Standards. Staff and volunteers were all involved in the process.

Hazel recently retired from her volunteering role. She started her Age UK career 21 years ago, as trustee director, then as chairman of the board of trustees of the newly merged Age UK South Staffordshire. She manages an Age UK coffee morning two days a week in Tamworth.

The Penkridge Resource Centre provides a telephone advice and information service on 01785 788 499 and Careline at 01785 788 477, providing guidance on how to access its services.

Volunteer Betty Breakell, aged 81, cuts the

The Age UK resource

The Roller Mill reception

3,700-plus vehicles seized

MORE than 3,750 vehicles have been seized by Staffordshire Police in a crackdown on car insurance dodgers.

Cars Behind Bars launched in May 2013 and has seen 3,772 cars, vans, motorcycles, mopeds, lorries and even a tractor seized.

More than 1,200 vehicles have been scrapped and around 70 higher-value uninsured vehicles been sold off at auction with the proceeds going back into communities in Staffordshire.

Figures released by the Motor Insurers' Bureau show there was an estimated 1,214 fewer uninsured vehicles on the roads in Staffordshire in 2014 compared to 2013.

Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis said: "It's clear that the message is hitting home as the number of insured motorists on Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent roads has risen significantly.

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No logic over lack of nurse training

DEVOLUTION of power, so it isn't concentrated all in one place, seems to be high on the politicians' agenda, but is it too much to ask for a little joined-up thinking?

Take the NHS, for example.

On a visit to Wolverhampton the shadow health secretary Andy Burnham is as much at a loss as anyone else to explain the logic of not funding more training places for nurses, while hospital trusts are so desperate for staff they go to places like Greece and Italy to find them. Mr Burnham says he'll sort this out if he gets into the Department of Health in May.

Whether Labour's so-called 'mansion tax' and a promise to pump billions more into the NHS will solve it is another matter entirely.

Deny

It makes no sense to deny the opportunity of a career in nursing to a young person for want of funding, only for another arm of the NHS to then use public money to bring someone in from overseas. That's absolutely no criticism of the foreign nurses.

At the moment they're falling over themselves to promise devolution to the English regions – something that might be a necessary sweetener if we are sold short in order to give Scotland what it wanted in exchange for not breaking up the United Kingdom.

One of the possible power handovers from Whitehall to the West Midlands could be around the issue of skills. There's an argument that under the coalition the oversight of education was concentrated too much in London. Is it going to be any better handing over skills to local areas without the rest of education?

Andy Burnham – nurse shortage

George Osborne – same policies

The Black Country Chamber of Commerce was less than impressed by Labour's planned crackdown on employing migrant workers on low pay.

Ninder Johal thinks the party is using 'anti-employer' rhetoric while failing to tackle what he considers to be a bigger issue, namely that education isn't up to scratch. The chamber says 'our schools, colleges and universities continue to produce young people who are unemployable'. Ed Miliband is adamant that good employers have nothing to fear.

But it does expose a couple of holes in Labour's 'guarantee' of an apprenticeship for every young person who makes the grade. Firstly, how do you guarantee a job when it requires employers to create the apprenticeship?

Secondly, what do you do about the ones who don't make the grade? Mr Miliband says Labour will help those who don't make the grade too. So that's all right then.

Thousands of jobs, hundreds of thousands of apprenticeships and hundreds of thousands of people getting the right to buy their homes; the Tory economic plan for the West Midlands is stat-tastic.

Chancellor George Osborne's announcement in the West Midlands would have been impressive, were it not essentially the same policies we've been hearing for the past weeks.

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Carol, 71, in golden oldies centre show

GOLDEN oldies are getting in tune for a concert today.

Walsall Senior Citizens Orchestra will raise the roof at the Forest Arts Centre at 2pm. Members hold monthly concerts at the performing arts centre in Hawbush Road, Leamore, after moving from Walsall Town Hall four years ago.

Lead violinist Carol Edwards, aged 71, of Chasetown, joined the group eight years ago and says they always look forward to impressing to audiences.

"We all meet regularly to rehearse and play our concerts," she said.

"We're always looking for new faces especially in the string section. We really enjoy what we do and it's a good crowd. We play a mix of old songs that would appeal to senior citizens and the occasional popular song."

The orchestra attracts audiences of 300 to the monthly concerts, which are usually held on the first Thursday of the month.

Today's performance will replace the show scheduled for May 7 as the centre will be a polling station.

Among the performers are trumpeter Geoff Langley, of Aldridge, and clarinet player Bridget Ashley, of Perton. The conductor is Bill Bostock, of Compton, while

Parents who paid cash will not get Go Bananas refund

DOZENS of parents who paid deposits for children's parties at doomed Go Bananas which closed suddenly earlier this year have been told that they won't receive a penny back.

By Katy-Rose Meaney

As many as 90 families handed over £50 to secure a party booking at the soft play centre in Burntwood before it shut on January 16.

Fourteen workers who lost their jobs are still fighting for their wages and redundancy payout, although they are expected to be paid.

Administrators took control of the company, based in Smiths Close, on March 31 but the company's assets had already been sold.

An investigation into the sale is now under way.

Go Bananas owner Tim Hall blamed the closure of the business on a rent dispute between himself and the landlord, London & Cambridge Properties (LCP).

While some parents managed to claim money back through their bank accounts after using debit and credit cards, liquidation firm Smith Cooper confirmed that parents who forked out £50 in cash will not get a refund.

Parents have been left furious at the decision. Mother-of-three Pippa Lewitt, from Rugeley, set up a Facebook group for parents to fight to get their deposits back.

She said today: "I think it is shocking that as we paid by cash there is no way of this being refunded. Fifty pounds is a lot of money for families to lose."

Nick Lee, joint liquidator, said: "On the information currently available, there is no prospect of a dividend to unsecured creditors.

"This means that deposit creditors who paid cash will not get a refund.

"The assets were sold by the director prior to the company being placed into liquidation.

"This transaction will be fully investigated by the liquidators."

At the time of the closure, the Chronicle reported that children were in tears and dozens of parents flooded the company's Facebook page with angry messages. A statement from the firm on the Facebook page said in January: "We are trying to resolve customer refunds by seeking legal advice. Please understand what has happened was out of our control and we are deeply sorry."

On Facebook, parent Sammy Longmore wrote: "Such an awful shame after you'd all worked to hard and it was doing so well."

Now, a total of £4,500 is owed to parents for party deposits, and £16,000 is owed to 14 employees for outstanding wages and redundancy pay.

Growing

The play equipment was advertised on online auction site eBay with a £40,000 price tag before the listing was removed.

Mr Lee added: "In the short time the business traded, Go Bananas was a highly regarded play centre with a growing customer base.

"Despite the hard work the new owners put in, the company was closed with immediate effect in January."

"This is a difficult time for the staff and we are currently assisting the employees claim their statutory entitlements."

Mr Hall declined to comment.

M54 misery as repairs overrun by two months

MOTORISTS face more misery on the M54 – after it was revealed roadworks are to overrun by two months.

The work was originally meant to finish this month but Highways England says the condition of the road is worse than expected. The upgrade and barrier replacement between junctions 3 and 5 will now not finish until June.

Drivers face night-time closures between the two junctions until June 13.

Average speed cameras have also been put in place to enforce a 40mph speed limit for westbound traffic during the day when two narrow lanes will be in place and a 50mph restriction for motorists travelling east during the work.

Sections of the westbound route continue to be reduced to one lane during the day.

Project manager Purnima Kaul said: "We have planned this work to deliver the maximum benefit for road users in the long term. We encourage all road users to properly plan their journeys. This is a very important scheme to replace and upgrade safety features on this stretch of the M54.

"We are replacing the central reservation barrier and improving the drainage. This will help keep drivers safe, whilst the drainage improvements will reduce spray."

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Matilda will hog the holiday limelight

Matilda and her porky friends are to be treated to a generous massage of oil and sunscreen at a public pampering

SHE may look happier than a pig in mud – but this prize porker is being washed clean.

Matilda, a 50-ton middle white, is one of the main attractions at a May Day event at the Shugborough estate next week. She and her porky friends are to be scrubbed up and treated to a generous massage of oil and sunscreen at a public pampering on bank holiday Monday.

Visitors to the 900-acre working farm estate will be able to see the pig-washing every hour. Other activities, such as butter making, will also be taking place. Pig Wash Day is now in its third year. Last year's May bank holiday weekend saw the estate draw its largest number of visitors yet.

The Georgian park farm, which is managed by Staffordshire County Council, is home to more than 150 of the world's rarest breeds of pigs and sheep. Next month it will be offering a double dose of farmyard fun, with Shugborough's sheep, ducks and goats lined up for racing antics over the spring bank holiday on Monday, May 25.

There will also be dragon-themed trails and activities in the mansion house and servants' quarters, garden games and dressed-up scarecrows in the walled garden.

More than 100,000 people a year visit the historic working farm which last year achieved the prestigious Rare Breed Status from the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Villagers surveyed on CCTV cameras

A CONSULTATION has been launched on the use of CCTV in South Staffordshire, with residents being asked if they would like to see more cameras installed.

Thirty cameras are in operation, mainly in the centre of villages across the south of the county, including Great Wyrley and Penkridge.

By Katy-Rose Meaney

It costs £10,000 for South Staffordshire Council to install and maintain each camera and now council bosses want to know if residents feel the devices are an effective deterrent against crime and anti-social behaviour.

The cameras capture 'real time' footage around the clock which is sent to a control room and then monitored by trained staff that can report any suspicious activity, alert the police of any crimes taking place or monitor disturbances and incidents before the police arrive at a scene.

The devices are also used to help towards making people feel safe when they are out in their local area, especially after dark.

Great Wyrley Parish councillor Raymond Perry believes that security filming on the shopping parade in the village is working well.

"They have been installed at the shops for a number of years now and we no longer get the problems that we used to," he said.

"I've had no complaints and they are there as a safeguard for the surrounding area, especially by the cash machine."

Council chiefs want to ensure the 30 cameras already installed are working effectively, and a questionnaire designed to find out how people feel is available on the council website.

To complete the survey, visit www.sstaffs.gov.uk/cctvsurvey

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Sammy Ritchie *They help with exercise as well as diets and are always there to offer encouragement. I'm still struggling with my chocolate temptation but with help and guidance I've still managed to drop a dress size in 6 weeks. The best move I've made is joining Gymophobics I feel fab already. Thanks xxx*

Stacey Astbury *Gymophobics is the best gym ive ever joined. Its a great place too go. Staff are so friendly and helpful and make us feel very welcome, you are not just a number at Gymophobics. Since ive joined ive lost 10lbs and couldnt of done it without their help & support big thankyou too them.*

Tina Barrett *Staff are so friendly and welcoming and don't judge you. They offer so much encouragement too. Members are also very friendly and I have never felt intimidated there. Best decision I made to join there xx*

Joanne Corns *Best decision ive made!!! There's a warm and friendly environment without any intimidation x*

Jade Haden *I've never been to a gym before, I plucked up the courage to go and I'm so glad I did. It's great, the team make u feel so welcome and the ladies who go are so friendly. I've lost 10lb in 4 weeks and it's thanks to Gymophobics Cannock!!. Love it. Xx*

Amanda Turner *Starting gymophobics for me was the best thing I'd done , exercising in a friendly environment with fantastic staff. Who would have thought that working out could be so much fun .xx*

Andrea Harvey *There will be temptation, but i promise you, when you reach your goal its WORTH IT!! I wouldn't be where i am now without the support of the gymophobics team best decision i ever made xx*

Emma Murphy *The staff are lovely, really get me motivated and always have a good laugh whilst working out. Never felt intimidated at all, you will feel that as soon as you walk through the door. I wouldn't go anywhere else x*

Sarah Astbury *I love gymaphobics because they have helped me drop lbs and inches in weeks. It's like my second home. All the staff there welcome you an are so friendly and that's hard to find at most gyms!*

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Campaign to help keep children safe online

CANNOCK Chase Council is helping keep children safe online by supporting the NSPCC 'Share Aware' campaign.

Keeping children safe online is a great concern for parents. The 'Share Aware' campaign aims to provide straightforward advice to parents of 8-12 year old children.

Local primary schools will receive a campaign pack which consists of 'A parents' guide for children staying safe online' and a promotional banner to be displayed outside the school. Both of which have been produced by the NSPCC.

Steve Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health for Cannock Chase Council said "The aim of this campaign is to educate parents about online safety for children. It is also about changing the behaviour of young people online."

Sandra McNair, NSPCC Regional Head of Services for Children and Families in the West Midlands said "We are extremely pleased to be working with our partners in Cannock Chase on the delivery of our Share Aware campaign. By rolling out the campaign to schools in the District, we hope local parents will feel better equipped to protect their children from online abuse."

Matthew Ellis, Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "The campaign is really important – which is why it is being funded by money from the Commissioner's Locality Deal across Cannock Chase District."

The campaign is being delivered in partnership with the NSPCC and Staffordshire Police and is funded by the local Police and Commissioner's Locality Deal Fund. Visit www.nspcc.org.uk/ShareAware

Cannock District Council's Kerry Wright and Inspector Paul Cooke, of Staffordshire Police, launching the online safety campaign

Hi-tech courses highlighted

SOUTH Staffordshire College is encouraging students to consider joining technology-based courses at its multi-million pound campus in Cannock.

Computer science lecturer Shaun Reeves said: "We do web development to promote the computer game you are designing, network engineering combined with web server scripting to enhance the experience, cloud packages to organise and produce the professional elements.

"This all takes place in our innovative Cannock campus. Your idea will grow here."

Ben Boothman, a Level 3 public services student, said: "The 4D room has allowed me to see my assignments come to life – we've done a number of different things in the 4D room, like crime scene analysis, news reports and police interviews."

For further information about South Staffordshire College and the IT courses available, visit www.south-staffs.ac.uk or call 0300 456 2424.

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Award for making school happy place

Deputy head, Charlotte Pilkington, left, with teacher Kelly Rogers and pupils Finlay John, left and Jack Taylor

REDBROOK Hayes Community Primary School in Brereton became the first school in Rugeley to be awarded Healthy Schools: Healthy Futures status.

At a special award ceremony, pupils delivered a final presentation about the amazing work which has gone into achieving the full status.

Redbrook Hayes pupils have led the way through peer mediation, where pupils support each other to solve problems; developing and implementing a new school behaviour system and finding inventive ways to increase pupil attendance.

Through delivering a forest schools project, which supports pupils developing self-esteem, confidence and team work, as well as developing a valued reward system, pupils at Redbrook Hayes now say that they are much happier coming to school and love the inspiring learning opportunities which await them every day.

Lead teacher, Kelly Rogers said that "It's wonderful to be recognised for the hard work and commitment of our learners and staff to the future health and wellbeing of our pupils."

Residents welcome park's £1m makeover

PLANS to spend £1.3 million revamping a popular park in Cannock have been welcomed by residents across the district.

By Katy-Rose Meaney

Heath Hayes Park will get new changing rooms, sports pitch improvements and revamped tennis courts and car park. The decision has been welcomed by Councillor John Bernard, chair of Heath Hayes Parish Council.

He said: "It is a great investment and about time something was done.

"There were complaints previously from nearby residents that football players were having to get changed on the car park as they couldn't fit in the cabin provided.

"The new and improved facilities will not only benefit sports teams but families, children and dog walkers too."

George Adamson, leader of Cannock Chase Council, also praised the news, calling the park an 'important community facility'.

He said: "It is now time to raise the quality of the facilities at Heath Hayes."

The informal park includes a children's play area, two football pitches and changing accommodation.

The main entrance to the park is off Wimblebury Road, accessed by a set of intricate memorial gates. These were refurbished a number of years ago and commemorate all of those lost in two world wars.

The park's playground was spruced up as part of a £164,000 overhaul in 2008. The memorial gates and monument underwent a major £32,000 facelift in 1998.

The work comes after improvement schemes at parks in Hednesford and Cannock and will be funded through new levies charged to developers who win major building contracts in the district.

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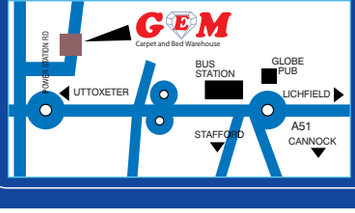

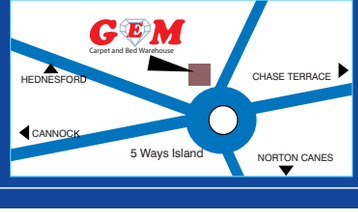

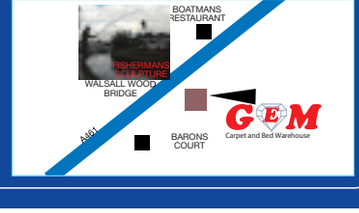

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Emotional tribute to 73 soldiers buried on Chase

A TRIBUTE was paid to 73 soldiers buried on Cannock Chase to mark Anzac Day.

A special cross was placed on each of the graves of servicemen by a relative of one of the men buried there.

Geoff McMillan, who lives in Waikanae in New Zealand, made the trip to the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Brocton to pay tribute to his great-uncle and comrades who trained on Cannock Chase.

Charles McMillan

The 73 men died in an influenza epidemic which devastated the camp in 1918.

His great-uncle Charles McMillan served as a private with the New Zealand Rifle Brigade but died on November 7, 1918, aged 24 – around a month after arriving in the UK.

The soldiers are remembered every year on April 25 – Anzac Day – which commemorates all the soldiers from Australia and New Zealand who served and died in military operations.

The date refers to the start of the disastrous Gallipoli campaign, in which many of them took part. Almost 188,000 Allied troops were left dead, missing or wounded over an the eight-month operation. About 500 people gathered on Cannock Chase to pay their respects at Sunday's ceremony.

The 73-year-old retired insurance executive said: "I had discussions with my family about it growing up.

"Before my father, Tom McMillan died in 1997, he said it would be nice for someone to go to Staffordshire and visit my great-uncle's grave.

"This has been my first trip to visit his grave. It has been very emotional."

The Anzac Day ceremony on Cannock Chase is the largest outside of Australia and New Zealand.

Geoff McMillan travelled from New Zealand to see the memorial stone

Arboretum to hold service

THE National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire will be holding a special event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

The venue will hold a short service of remembrance, followed by a vintage-style street party, on May 10.

The street party, which is designed to help visitors remember those who served both at home and away during the Second World War, will include a variety of entertainment reminiscent of the VE Day celebrations in May 1945. There will be 1940s-style music, entertainment and food, a pop-up vintage and handmade goods market, flag making and games for children, and guided walks.

Sarah Montgomery, managing director of the Arboretum, said: "In addition to our service of remembrance, we'll be taking visitors back in time for a fun, vintage-style street party.

"We hope that many families and individuals will join us to mark this historic occasion."

The activities will run from 9am to 5pm. Go to www.thenma.org.uk

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Concert to mark VE Day anniversary

From left, director Julie Lamb, Alison Bates of the RBL, Sgt Dan O'Sullivan and costume designer Sarah Carter

HEROES & Sweethearts, a concert of song and dance to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day, will be staged at the Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock, on May 22 and 23.

Produced in support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, the show is the latest production by the Aldridge Musical Comedy Society (AMCS).

Numbers including In the Mood, We'll Meet Again, and Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, are among many which will have the audience singing and tapping their feet. As part of the official association with the Royal British Legion, AMCS hope to raise awareness and much needed funds in the run-up and during performances of the shows.

Sarah Carter, publicity officer and costume designer, said: "It is an honour and a privilege to be in association with the Royal British Legion for our show."

Alison Bates of the RBL said: "We are delighted to be part of this opportunity to work with AMCS to raise funds for the RBL."

Julie Lamb, chairperson of AMCS and director of Heroes & Sweethearts, said: "I am delighted to be working in association with the Royal British Legion on our forthcoming show and proud to be able to support such a worthwhile and important charity. "

A photo session at RAF Museum Cosford gave the opportunity for Sgt Dan O' Sullivan to tell of the assistance he has been given by the Royal British Legion after being attacked during a night out in Wolverhampton.

Musical direction is from Mark Bayliss and choreography by Sarah Hemming.

Heroes & Sweethearts will be performed at 7.30pm on May 22, and at 2.30pm and 7.30pm on May 23.

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MTV star opens her mother's salon

Loren Green, right, with her mother Emma Collins alongside, and beauticians, from left, Shannon Rolfesz Sheils, Freya Morgan and Beth Rogers at Fabulous Extensions & Beauty

EX on the Beach star Loren Green was more than happy to attend the opening of a new hair salon in Cannock – because it is run by her mother.

The 23-year-old, who recently featured on the second series of the MTV show, will also be working at Fabulous Extensions & Beauty twice a week.

The salon, in Hamelin Street, officially opened at the weekend, where prospective customers were welcomed through the doors to see what is on offer. Loren's mum Emma Collins said: "Our first week has gone well but even though this was a salon before we are starting from scratch.

"It's a competitive market but now people seem to find money for their nails and their hair whereas perhaps 10 to 15 years ago if they were saving money they wouldn't think it essential."

Emma has hired three beauticians at the salon as well as her daughter Loren. The mum-of-three, 44, from Teddesley Road, Penkridge, has been in the beauty industry since the age of 13 when she helped out at Roger Porter in Cannock.

She then went on to hone her skills at college in the town. For the past nine years Emma has done beauty work in Spain.

She added: "I am originally from Cannock and this was a business opportunity which just came up so I just thought 'Let's do it'. I have a lot of experience in the industry, I started when I was 13, which is a long time. I just want people to know we are open here now which will hopefully catch on by word of mouth."

And what did she think of her daughter's television appearance on Ex on the Beech – a show which jets singles off on a sun-soaked holiday only to reunite them with a former flame. "I trusted her totally to keep her dignity and I knew she wouldn't let herself down," she said.

"These types of shows can sometimes be big platforms to promote yourself and it's how you work at it afterwards."

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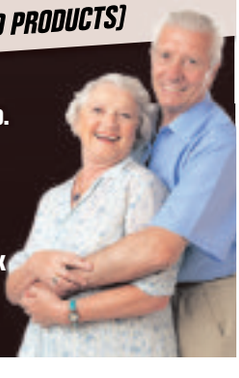

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MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

MARIA gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861**

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PAULA 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing male. Call if you feel the same. ACA **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521**

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BEAUTIFUL full figured, down to earth black woman, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499**

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KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTM attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299**

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DARREN 42, likes pubs, clubs, drives, meals out, motocross, seeks female, 28-35. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389127**

ROBERT 6ft 4ins, blue eyes, brown hair, likes football, nights out, socialising, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417053**

55YR old male, 5ft 6ins, dark hair, loyal, likes keep fit, seeks special female to light my fire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393333**

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTM lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259**

PAUL 63, seeks attractive younger lady for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417121**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

MALE 67, smoker, solvent, OHAC, seeking feminine, voluptuous woman, 60-65 for days out, weekends away, holidays and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417043**

RICHARD 44, single, happy go lucky, likes pubs, clubs, socialising, seeking female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416995**

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481**

VICTOR, retired, 5ft 8ins, professional, seeks N/S lady for fun, friendship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309157**

NICK 52, 6ft, slim, genuine, seeking slim female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415881**

SINGLE dad, young 39, likes keep fit, walks, seeks slim lady, any age for fun, hopeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395747**

39YR old single dad, likes cosy nights in, seeks female for fun times, maybe more. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395807**

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335**

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

39YR old single dad, likes cosy nights in, seeks single, slim lady for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396061**

MIKE 47, 6ft, easygoing, kind, considerate, seeks female, 25-45 for friendship and outdoor activities. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396367**

GENT 53, 5ft 11ins, brown eyes, distinguished, seeking attractive lady, 30-45 for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415809**

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Raptors team nets debut contest win

Club secretary Rob Ulrichsen, left, and club coach Steve Eustice of The Rugeley Raptors

A NEW basketball team in Rugeley has got off to a flying start, winning its first competitive match.

The Rugeley Raptors beat the Uttoxeter Bulls 78-56 in the game at Uttoxeter Leisure Centre.

The senior men's team only formed six months ago and watching the Rugeley Raptors roar to victory was the icing on the cake for club founder Rob Ulrichsen.

He said: "The game was a great opportunity to put all the hard work in training into practice. The team has a nice blend of experience and youth, which we aim to build on in preparation for the start of the West Midlands League season in September."

The team have enrolled in the West Midlands Basketball League for their debut season, which begins in September.

The Raptors train at Rugeley Leisure Centre on Burnthill Lane on Thursdays at 8-10pm and Sundays at 3-5pm and sessions cost £5.

The team are currently searching for new player. Anyone 17 years of age or older can join the training sessions or the competitive games.

Email rob@rugeleyraptors.co.uk or call 07861 366640. For more on the club visit www.rugeleyraptors.co.uk

Paramedics could give antibiotics at the scene

PARAMEDICS could be given powers to prescribe antibiotics to patients on the doorstep in a move to reduce pressure on besieged A&E departments.

It could be brought in across Staffordshire, which is still battling the after affects of the overnight closure of Stafford's A&E department.

By Carl Jackson

Ambulance crews in some parts of the county are also not reaching people in good time.

Health boss Andrew Tanner, assistant to the director of operations on Stafford and Surrounds Clinical Commissioning Group, confirmed that talks had taken place with West Midlands Ambulance Service about plans for paramedics to be able to prescribe four types of antibiotics at the scene of an incident.

"We are looking at the wider role of paramedics and whether they should be able to prescribe on scene," Mr Tanner said. "Staffordshire is leading the way here.

"It will mean more people will able to be treated at the scene without going to A&E needlessly. It will have a number of benefits to patients and on response times." CCG chair Dr Anne-Marie Houlder said: "If that's going to happen it shows patients did not need a paramedic in the first place.

"But it will be better than going to hospital and better for the patient."

Ambulance service spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "It was discussed prior to winter, but we have had no suggestion from the CCGs that it is something they want to proceed with.

"Even if a decision was made to go ahead, there would be an extremely lengthy process to go through to allow it to happen."

Bobby commended for chasing violent suspect

Andrew Harris, Pc Bethan Gilbert, Chief Supt Jeff Moore and Dane Fearn at the police awards ceremony

A BRAVE bobby who was punched and threatened by a fleeing drink driver but continued to chase him on her own has been given a bravery award.

Pc Bethan Gilbert has been awarded for her courageous arrest in Chasetown, while a CCTV operator and a member of the public have also been recognised for their part in detaining the escaping criminal.

Pc Gilbert's dramatic pursuit unfolded on November 23 when Dane Fearn alerted Staffordshire Police control room to a man behaving suspiciously in a car in Chasetown after spotting him on cameras he was monitoring from Lichfield.

As the local neighbourhood officer, Pc Gilbert was the first to attend while she was carrying out her regular patrol. On arrival, she noticed the driver smelt strongly of alcohol and went to breathalyse the man, but he ran off.

When the officer gave chase, the suspect turned around and shouted threats, and charged at her, prompting Pc Gilbert to tazer him.

But that was only enough to subdue him temporarily and the fleeing criminal got up and continued his escape.

Handcuffs

Undeterred, the brave bobby persisted with the chase while still on her own at that point – or so she thought.

Unbeknown to her, Mr Fearn had followed the pursuit on CCTV and was giving a running commentary to the control room who were scrambling to direct reinforcements.

But then, in another twist, civilian Andrew Harris had heard the disturbance and rugby-tackled the suspect to the ground and helped restrain him while Pc Gilbert applied the handcuffs. Soon after, back-up officers arrived.

The heroic three were formally recognised at an awards ceremony at Staffordshire Police headquarters.

Chief Supt Jeff Moore presented Pc Gilbert with a certificate of commendation for her commitment and refusal to flinch from duty, and a certificate of appreciation was handed to Mr Fearn in recognition of his calmness and professionalism, while the same honour was given to Mr Harris for his public spirit and bravery.

Chf Supt Moore added: "Bethan typifies the approach our officers take in standing firm.

"I am pleased we were able to formally thank both Andrew and Dane and I feel their actions show that the public still value local police officers."

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Battle against business crime to get support

AN initiative which brings together businesses across the Cannock Chase district has been recognised for its crime-fighting work.

The Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford Business Crime Reduction Partnership has been formally accredited by umbrella organisation Partnerships Against Business Crime in Staffordshire. Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis says he is determined to make sure that businesses who are the victims of crime get the support they need. He has commissioned the Business Crime Matters strategy, spearheaded by his deputy Sue Arnold.

The crime reduction partnership's members work together to help prevent town centre crime and disorder by sharing information with each other, with police and other partners and by implementing their own sanctions.

The roll-out of the partnership across the Cannock Chase district has been supported with funding from the PCC's Proceeds of Crime Fund which sees 100 per cent of received by Staffordshire Police going back into local communities. It is made up of money seized from criminals as Staffordshire Police continue to strip offenders of their assets.

Matthew Ellis says he is determined that businesses hit by crime get support

Gains

Mrs Arnold said: "Business crime matters – which is why the work that PABCIS is doing throughout Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is so important.

"It's fantastic that criminals' ill-gotten gains are being ploughed back into crime-fighting initiatives in our town and city centres.

"I wholeheartedly support the work that the partnership is doing in Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford. They've worked hard to receive the PABCIS accreditation which will benefit businesses in the town centres and members of the public who use them."

PABCIS is the overarching umbrella organisation under which all local Business Crime Partnerships, Shopwatch and Pubwatch schemes sit to ensure consistency in operation, policy and service delivery to businesses.

It also manages the central intelligence hub into which local schemes feed information so that action can be taken by businesses, police and partners. More information is available at www.pabcis.co.uk

PABCIS coordinator Julie Davies said: "All business crime partnerships in Staffordshire operate under the overarching organisation of PABCIS, creating consistency in approach whilst ensuring that partnerships are not only legally compliant, but are also productive and effective for the benefit of our business communities.

"Businesses form the lifeblood of our town centres, and so it is important that partnerships work together to help to create a safe and secure environment for all those who work, visit and invest in the district. Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford's Business Crime Reduction Partnership has worked hard during the last two years in order to achieve the standard laid down by PABCIS. I am delighted with the progress, and look forward to working with the partnership in order to develop further across the Cannock Chase district area."

Chief Superintendent Jeff Moore, from Staffordshire Police, said: "The accreditation of Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford's partnership is recognition of how closely they work together and with the police in preventing crime and keeping our town centres safer. The PABCIS model is well established now within Staffordshire and has shown how effective it can be in bringing partners together. I am really pleased that Cannock Chase district is now part of this way of working."

A new service which offers free expert support and guidance to Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent businesses who are victims of crime was launched in January. Business crime advisers are available to all local firms whether they report the crime to police or not.

For more details on the service, visit www.businesscrimematters.com

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How times are a changin' for Molineux

This aerial shot shows the changes to Molineux and the areas around the ground

THE changing face of Molineux and its surrounding areas can be seen in this stunning aerial shot.

The famous old stadium has gone through its fair share of changes, most recently with the opening of the revamped two-tier Stan Cullis Stand in 2012. But this photograph also reveals the changes to the areas around it. The new university building can be seen in Molineux Street in the shadow of the Steve Bull Stand. The university has also taken over the former Feathers pub further up the road, which it plans to turn into a print centre.

The vacant lot where The Wanderer used to stand can be seen. A matchday favourite with Wolves fans for years,

Tribute event at racecourse

A NEW live music event is taking place at Wolverhampton Racecourse in the autumn.

Tribute in the Park '15 is being organised by Event-Tronic with the racecourse on Saturday, September 12.

Director, Kevin Blair, said "Event-Tronic Ltd is thrilled to be able to partner with such a prestigious venue for this outing. Our events business is based in Wolverhampton and we look forward to hosting attendees from throughout the West Midlands and further afield at this great city-based music event."

Leading UK tributes to Blur, Kaiser Chiefs, Oasis, Coldplay and Ed Sheeran will be performing on the outdoor stage , with a Queen tribute act headlining.

The event opens at noon with music performances back to back through until late into the evening.

Wolverhampton Racecourse managing director David Roberts said; "We are delighted to be hosting Tribute in the Park this year.

"This is an excellent event in amongst a fantastic set of live music dates throughout September."

Tickets can be bought online at www.wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk or by calling 01902 390000.

Deaf feel excluded as fitness service is cut

MEMBERS of the deaf community say they have been 'robbed of their rights' after the only fitness service to cater for them in Wolverhampton was cut.

Bosses at Wolverhampton Swimming and Fitness Centre bosses say they are committed to recruiting a deaf fitness instructor 'at the earliest opportunity'.

Ernesto Del Carpio, a deaf adviser with Wolverhampton Citizen's Advice Bureau, said members had contacted him with complaints over Places for People, which runs the Bentley Bridge fitness centre, and Wolverhampton City Council, which owns the building.

Fitness instructor Ishtiaq Hussain, aged 41, who is profoundly deaf, was initially contracted to work 12 hours per week, offering personal training and group fitness classes.

Extended

When the service was reviewed in March, it was cut back to two hours a day, three days a week.

The change was not feasible for Mr Hussain and he had to turn the contract down.

He believes the hours should have been extended as they were limited to times during the day when many people could not attend.

Speaking through an interpreter, Mr Del Carpio said: "It wasn't providing equal access. People pay council tax to have the building provided in the first place.

"These people feel excluded, under the Equality Act this is quite discriminating."

Jason Pitman, general manager of the Wolverhampton centre, said:"Wolverhampton Swimming and Fitness Centre is committed to recruit a qualified Wolverhampton-based deaf fitness instructor to deliver our deaf friendly group workout classes and inductions at the earliest opportunity."

Front left, Ernesto Del Carpio with Deaf Fitness instructor Ishtiaq Hussain

Cat charity in helpers plea

ANIMAL lovers are wanted to help a local branch of a feline charity.

The Wolverhampton branch of Cats Protection is looking to recruit volunteers who can spare a few hours a month to fill fundraising, fostering, recruitment and helpline roles.

Nicola Davies, branch co-ordinator, said: "The charity can provide training, assistance and support materials, but we do need people who care about cats and have bags of enthusiasm.

"The roles are voluntary and by sparing a few of hours a week it can make a huge difference to needy cats.

"We are sure whoever takes on the roles will find them incredibly rewarding."

Cats Protection's Wolverhampton Branch is part of a national network of more than 250 volunteer-run branches and 31 adoption centres.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should call 080800 191919, visit http://wolverhampton.cats.org.uk, or email bsusnwe@cats.org.uk

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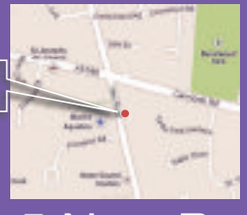

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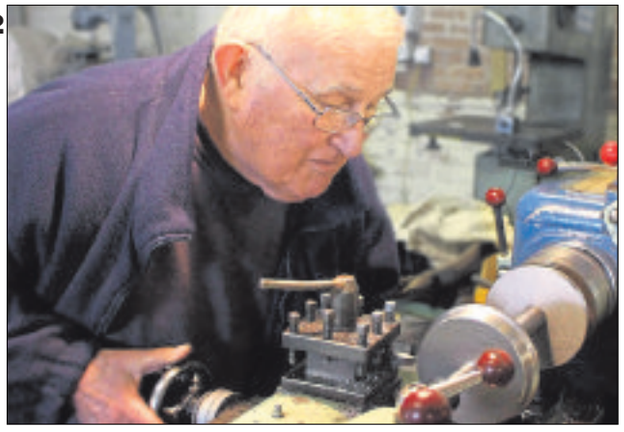

Hard at work – Charles Clowes using a lathe

Concreting the base for the new tunnel

McAuliffe Group digging the cutting for the new tunnel

Miniature railway hobby is still on the right track

Mike Amith on the GNR Atlantis

Members building the signal box

FOR more than 30 years the Wolverhampton & District Model Engineering Society has been bringing together people interested in stationary engines, traction engines, aircraft, powered boats and most of all miniature railways.

It all began when Jack Acton placed a newspaper advert and the society was formed with monthly meetings.

For 10 years they only had a portable track which they set up at country fetes and the like, but then they had the chance to build a permanent miniature railway at Baggeridge Country Park, now open every Sunday and Bank Holiday during the summer months.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

Shortly after opening, an adventure playground was built alongside the railway, ideal for a family day out. The society is now extending the track with phase one including a new loop and tunnel

The society still takes a portable track to a few events each year, and on Sunday, May 10 they will be laying a line through Tettenhall Station to commemorate the 90th anniversary since the line through Tettenhall was opened.

It will be the first time people will be able to ride a train through Tettenhall station since the line closed 50 years ago.

Richard Smith and the late Ron Haddock laying track

Mike Smith driving the GNR Atlantic on raised track for smaller engines

Express & Star Shop

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Double	D7751	£34.99	£24.99	D5753	£42.99	£29.99	D6095	£49.99	£33.99
King	D7752	£44.99	£27.99	D5754	£54.99	£32.99	D6096	£64.99	£36.99
S/King	D7753	£54.99	£29.99	D5755	£64.99	£34.99	D6097	£74.99	£39.99
Pillow	D5785	£29.99	£19.99						

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5cm Double	135 x 190cm	D3698	£149.99	£99.99
5cm King	150 x 200cm	D3699	£159.99	£109.99
5cm S/King	180 x 200cm	D5954	£169.99	£119.99
7.5cm Single	90 x 190cm	D3895	£149.99	£89.99
7.5cm Double	135 x 190cm	D3896	£179.99	£119.99
7.5cm King	150 x 200cm	D3897	£199.99	£129.99
7.5cm S/King	180 x 200cm	D5955	£219.99	£139.99
Pillow	50 x 32cm	GF761	£29.99	£19.99

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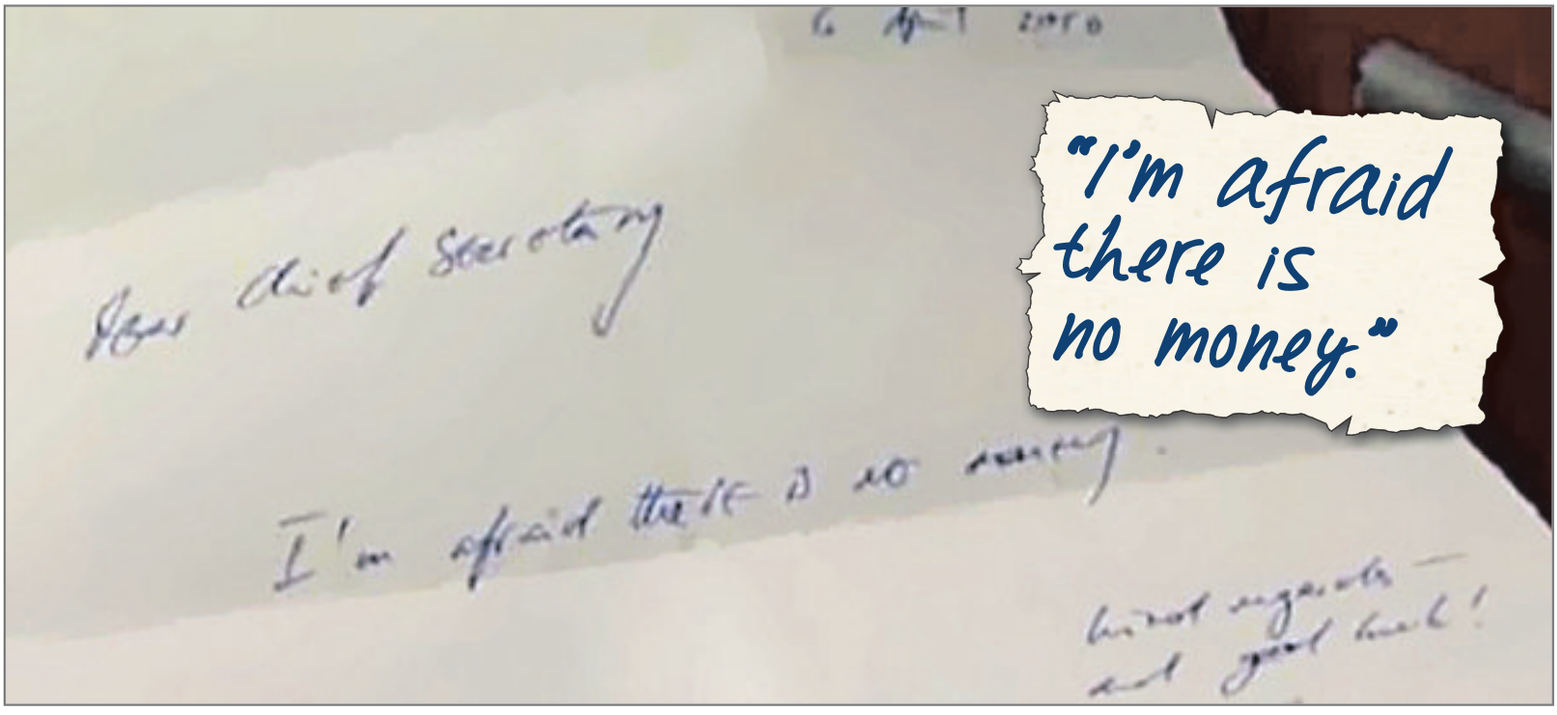
A STRONG ECONOMY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

HELPING BUSINESSES CREATE 2 MILLION JOBS

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING OUR NHS

FIVE YEARS AGO...

Labour left a note behind that said:



FIVE YEARS ON...

The Conservatives are building a stronger economy and securing a better future for you, your family and Britain

"The Conservatives' plan is building a stronger economy and helping hardworking families get on in life.

We're dealing with the deficit to safeguard the economy for our children, and so we can invest in the schools and hospitals that we all rely on. By creating jobs, cutting taxes, and increasing the State Pension, we're giving people security at every stage in their life.

The Conservatives need only 23 more seats to win the election and keep Ed Miliband and the SNP out of Downing Street.

So vote Conservative on May 7th and let's finish what we've begun – to keep our economy strong and secure a better future for you, your family and our country."

David Cameron

THE THREAT FACING BRITAIN AT THIS ELECTION

SEE BACK PAGE

Promoted by Alan Mabbutt on behalf of the Conservative Party, both at 4 Matthew Parker Street, London, SW1H 9HQ. AH342112

A BRIGHTER, MORE SECURE FUTURE

WHAT WE'VE DONE

1. **HALVED THE DEFICIT** as a share of our economy
2. **CUT INCOME TAX** for over 26 million people
3. **FROZEN FUEL DUTY** – saving motorists 17p a litre
4. Helped **CREATE 2 MILLION JOBS**, over 2 million apprenticeships and 760,000 more businesses
5. **CAPPED WELFARE** to reward work
6. **DELIVERED BETTER SCHOOLS** with a million more children in good or outstanding schools
7. **CUT THE EU BUDGET** – saving British taxpayers over £8 billion
8. **INCREASED THE STATE PENSION BY £950** so people have security in retirement

WHAT WE'LL DO NEXT

1. **CUT INCOME TAX** for 30 million people
2. Continue to **GET THE DEFICIT DOWN**
3. Help businesses **CREATE 2 MILLION MORE JOBS**
4. **DELIVER 30 HOURS FREE CHILDCARE** for working parents of 3 and 4 year-olds
5. **BUILD 200,000 STARTER HOMES** and **EXTEND RIGHT TO BUY**
6. **LOWER THE BENEFIT CAP** to reward work
7. Continue to **INCREASE THE STATE PENSION**
8. **PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE NHS**

All this is at risk from Ed Miliband and the SNP.

Don't go back to square one – let's finish what we've begun.

AH342113

WHAT THE CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO MEANS FOR YOU

A STRONG ECONOMY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

- Keep our economy secure by running a surplus so that we start paying down our debts
- Commit to no increases in VAT, National Insurance contributions or Income Tax
- Crack down on tax evasion and aggressive tax avoidance

CONTROLLED IMMIGRATION THAT BENEFITS BRITAIN

- Keep our ambition of delivering annual net migration in the tens of thousands, not the hundreds of thousands
- Control migration from the European Union by reforming welfare rules
- Clamp down on illegal immigration and abuse of the minimum wage

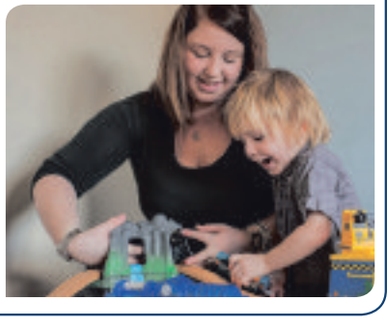
JOBS FOR ALL

- Help businesses to create 2 million new jobs
- Give businesses the most competitive taxes of any major economy
- Back small firms with a major business rates review
- Support 3 million new apprenticeships – so young people acquire the skills to succeed
- Pass a new law so nobody working up to 30 hours a week on the minimum wage pays income tax on what they earn

GIVING YOUR CHILD THE BEST START IN LIFE

- Ensure a good primary school place for your child, with zero tolerance of failure
- Turn every failing and coasting secondary school into an academy and deliver free schools for parents and communities that want them

CUTTING YOUR TAXES



- Cut Income Tax for 30 million people, taking everyone who earns less than £12,500 out of Income Tax altogether
- Back aspiration by raising the 40p tax threshold – so that no one earning less than £50,000 pays it

BUILDING A FAIRER WELFARE SYSTEM

- Cap overall welfare spending
- Lower the amount of benefits that any household can receive to £23,000 – so that people can't claim more in benefits than most earn in work
- Continue to roll out Universal Credit, to make work pay
- Tax-free childcare to support parents back into work, and 30 hours of free childcare a week for working parents of 3 and 4 year-olds

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING OUR NHS

- Continue to increase spending on the NHS, supported by a strong economy, so the NHS stays free for you to use
- Spend at least an additional £8 billion by 2020 over and above inflation to fund and support the NHS's own action plan for the next five years

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

THE THREAT FACING BRITAIN AT THIS ELECTION

Labour & the SNP - you'll pay for it

The choice at this election is clear: the Conservatives or Ed Miliband & the SNP.

Labour CAN'T WIN the election without being propped up by Alex Salmond and Nicola Sturgeon.

Just think: Labour, the party who'd wreck the economy, dancing to the tune of the SNP, the party who'd break up our country.

Ed Miliband will have to buy off the SNP, and you and your family will pick up the bill.

The last five years of progress could come to a halt if you don't act to stop them.

And there's only ONE WAY you can stop Ed Miliband & the SNP: **vote Conservative.**

SNP threat to hold UK to ransom

Daily Mail 20/04/15

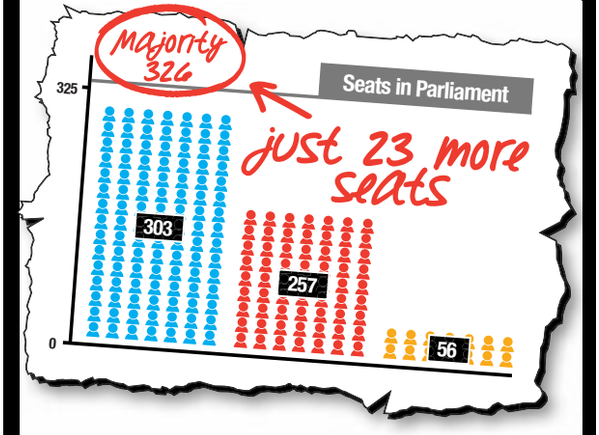
YOUR VOTE ON MAY 7TH WILL BE THE DIFFERENCE

Your vote WILL be critical in deciding who governs Britain.

The Conservatives need to win only 23 more seats to form a majority government.

Ed Miliband and the SNP will take Britain back to square one.

You can only stop them by voting for David Cameron's Conservatives.



SO VOTE CONSERVATIVE AND SAVE BRITAIN FROM THE CHAOS OF ED MILIBAND AND THE SNP IN DOWNING STREET.

LET'S NOT WASTE THE LAST FIVE YEARS OF HARD WORK.
LET'S NOT GO BACK TO SQUARE ONE.

Vote Conservative

Promoted by Alan Mabbutt on behalf of the Conservative Party, both at 4 Matthew Parker Street, London, SW1H 9HQ. AH342115

fast theticket

What rotters

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

Page 75

Time of her life

Dirty Dancing star –

Page 75

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Torquay	£169.95
St Ives & Falmouth	£199.95
Llandudno	£189.95
Blackpool	£149.95
Weston-S-Mare	£179.95
Folkestone & Ostend	£169.95
Sandown, Isle of Wight	£199.95

5 DAY TOURS DEPART MON 25 MAY

Southport & Liverpool	£179.95
Llandudno	£169.95
Blackpool	£159.95
Folkestone & Ostend	£169.95
Sandown & Isle of Wight	£189.95
Berwick Upon Tweed & Holy Island	£199.95
Alnwick Castle & Beamish	£249.95
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Pontins Southport	£149.95
Pontins Brean Sands	£149.95
Pontins Sand Bay *ADULTS ONLY*	£149.95
Oban & Isle of Mull	£219.95
Dunoon, Oban & Isle of Bute	£199.95
Torquay	£179.95
Eastbourne	£169.95
Isle of Arran & Loch Lomond Cruise	£199.95

5 DAY TOURS DEPART MON 8 JUN

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Torquay & Eden Project	£219.95
Folkestone & Ostend	£169.95
Great Yarmouth, Sheringham Steam & Norfolk Cruise	£199.95
Pontins Brean Sands	£149.95
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Jimmy Carr

Saturday, 8pm
Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
Often described as the hardest working comedian on the circuit, and a glance at his tour itinerary shows why, the gag machine with the distinctive guffaw is back with his Funny Business show. **See www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

Joe McElderry

Saturday, 7.30pm
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
The X Factor winner in 2009, the singer from South Shields went on to win Popstar to Operastar and the first series of The Jump. The 23-year-old crooner returns with his Evolution tour. **See www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

Stewart Lee

Saturday, 8pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Lee hasn't had the stadium success of some comedians and that's the way he likes it. He regularly sells out venues and has the respect of other comics, although some have been known to nick his jokes. **See www.thsh.co.uk**

Oh What A Lovely War

Tuesday to Saturday, 7 or 7.30pm, 2pm, Birmingham Rep
Coronation Street's Wendi Peters joins the ensemble cast for a revival of Joan Littlewood's sharp satire contrasting First World War music hall songs with the carnage of the trenches. **See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk**

ROCK & POP

Joe McElderry
Sat at 6.45pm
£15 - £20.90
Wulfrun Hall,
Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH.
01902 552106

Bon Giovi
Friday at 7.30pm
£12 - £13
The Robin 2 Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
01902 401211

S Club 7
Thu at 7.30pm, £40.08 - £51.33
Genting Arena Birmingham, B40 1NT. 0121 780 4141

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Valous
Sun at 6pm, £5 adv
The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf, Birmingham, B1 2NU.
0121 236 2421

Clare Maguire
Fri at 8pm, £7
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. 0871 472 0400

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Stewart Lee – A Room With A Stew
Sat at 8pm, £21
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
0121 780 3333

Jimmy Carr – Funny Business
Sat at 8pm, £27.50
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RD. 0870 320 7000

Comedy & Carousel
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£5 - £19.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. 0871 472 0400

Tim Vine
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Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
01543 412121

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01902 716055

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Sun at 4pm, £9.50 - £35
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
0121 780 3333

CBSO Haydn in London
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CBSO Friday Night Classics
Fri at 7.30pm,
£10 - £32
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Sandpiper Folk Club Night
Wed at 7.45pm, £2
Pigot Arms, Pattingham, WV6 7BQ. 01902 700207

Black Diamond Singers Night
Fri at 8.30pm, Check for admission charges
The Lamp Tavern,Barford Street, Birmingham, B5 6AH.
0121 622 2599

Common Folk: Singers' Night
Thu at 8.30pm, £1
Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall Road,WV3 4BP.
01922 682018

Altan
Thu at 8pm, £18 - £20
mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH. 0121 446 3232

Charley Pride
Mon at 7.30pm, £30 - £40
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
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The Full English
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Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
0121 780 3333

Rebecca Downes +...
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Dustin Kensrue
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Mon at 7pm - 11pm, £5 adv
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0121 643 0428

Pinkshinyultrablast
Thu at 7pm, £6. adv
The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY. 0121 643 0428

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Balkanic Eruption - CUMBIA SPECIAL, Sat at 9pm, £6
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WaDaDa - Live Ska Reggae
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EXHIBITIONS

Artists for Ikon
Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Mon at 11am - 6pm, Free
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
0121 248 0708

Siân Macfarlane
Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

St Ives Artists
Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

Soldier Stories
Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
0121 303 1966

Faith & Action
Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
0121 303 1966

Pop in Space
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

The Poetic Impossibility...
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm,
Free, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

The Current Situation
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Free, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

Floralia Festival
Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon at 11am - 5pm, Free. Wightwick Manor, WV6 8EE. 01902 760100

On The Right Tracks
Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Free, Bantock House Museum, WV3 9LQ. 01902 552195

Bilston's Happy Housing
Fri at 10am - 1pm, Sat at 11am - 4pm, free,
Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, WV14 7LU.
01902 552507

Found
Fri, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm,
Free, New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

The Clive Beardsmore Gift
Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

Art From Elsewhere
Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm,
Free, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
0121 303 1966

Love is Enough
Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, £3 - £7
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH. 0121 303 1966

Robert Groves
Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Mon at 11am - 6pm, Free
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
0121 248 0708

A Touch of Glass
Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Free
Red House Glass Cone, High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 4AZ.
01384 812750

THEATRES

Dirty Dancing
Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £20 - £55
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. 0844 338 5000

The Bodyguard The Musical
Sat at 2.30pm, Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £18 - £49.50
Wolverhampton Grand, WV1 1DE. 01902 573320

Collidoscope
Sat at 7.30pm, £8 - £12
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. 01902 321321

Feed The Beast
Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm, £12 - £20
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Rebecca
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, £13.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

First Stages - Open House
Sat at 11.30am, 2pm, 3.30pm, £6 - £9
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Oh What A Lovely War
Tue at 7pm, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, £13.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Sister Act
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £18
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
01543 412121

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £53.40
New Alexandra Theatre,Birmingham, B5 4DS.
0844 871 3011

The Pirates of Penzance
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, £7.50 - £15
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
0121 643 5858

Sister Act
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm
£15 - £18
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
0121 643 5858

A Night at the Music Hall
Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £14.50
Wolverhampton Grand , WV1 1DE. 01902 573320

Open Door With Bold Text
Tue at 8pm, Free
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Five Kinds of Silence
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £10
The Old Joint Stock, Temple Row West, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
0121 200 1892

Our Day Out
Thu at 7.30pm, £8 - £10
Prince Of Wales Centre, Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
01543 578762

ACOUSTIC

Tia McGraff
Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £15
The Robin 2 , Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
01902 401211

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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Keeping a watch out for Scoundrels

Scam-tastic, it's the Dirty Rotten Scoundrels cast for Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre — Michael Praed (as Lawrence), Carley Stenson (Christine), Noel Sullivan (Freddy) and Mark Benton (Andre) Photograph by Paul Rider

LIVE the Riviera life in Brum next week when eagerly-awaited comedy musical Dirty Rotten Scoundrels arrives for a fortnight run at the New Alexandra Theatre.

Direct from London's West End, where it ran for a year to rave reviews and packed houses, the hit show is based on the classic 1988 movie starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin as a pair of conmen operating in the South of France.

The chalk and cheese partners end up vying with each other to scam a millionaire heiress.

The cast for the May 5 to 16 run in Birmingham is led by former Robin of Sherwood star Michael Praed as Lawrence with former Hear'Say singer Noel Sullivan as Freddy. Waterloo Road actor Mark Benton plays Andre.

They are joined by Carley Stenson from Hollyoaks as Christine, the object of their desires.

Star role start for Jessie, 22

A RISING star of the stage from Dudley will take on a lead role in the UK tour of Dirty Dancing when it comes to Birmingham Hippodrome.

Drama school graduate Jessie Hart, from Wall Heath, will star as Baby Houseman during the three-week run at the Birmingham theatre, which starts tonight.

The 22-year-old actress recently graduated from the Mountview of Theatre Arts in London and also appeared in ITV drama Arthur and George. She said: "Birmingham Hippodrome was where I saw the first show I can remember. I saw Miss Saigon there when I was about 11 with all my family. It was my favourite ever show and I'll never forget it. It's crazy to think that I will open my run of the tour, playing the leading role, Baby, on that same stage."

Lewis Kirk will star alongside her as Johnny Castle, the role that was famously played by Patrick Swayze in the 1987 film. It tells the story of two fiercely independent young people from different worlds, who fall in love at a holiday resort. It features hit songs, including Hey Baby, Do You Love Me? and (I've Had) The Time Of My Life.

Fans of the cult classic movie will delight in this stage version, particularly the famous set pieces including the line 'Nobody puts Baby in a corner' and the famous lift dance move that gets roars of approval. It has been adapted for the stage by the movie's writer Eleanor Bergstein and the production values are worthy of the West End.

Dirty Dancing will run at the Hippodrome until May 23.

Rockers coming home for concert

BLACK Country rock band Martyr De Mona — who have opened for Black Stone Cherry and the legendary Slash on tour — have announced a new gig in their home region.

Described by Midlands Rocks as 'undoubtedly the Midlands' hottest band at the moment!', Martyr De Mona will be taking to the stage at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on December 18.

The Stourbridge band have already supported Black Sabbath, Avenged Sevenfold, and Alter Bridge.

Tickets start at £8.80 (including booking fee) and are available from Midland Box Office on 0870 3207000 or online at the www.wolvescivic.co.uk website.

War and many a music hall piece

JOAN Littlewood's musical Oh What A Lovely War is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Directed by University of Birmingham graduate, Terry Johnson, the revival is at The Rep from May 5 to 9 as the final venue of the show's UK tour.

The satirical show about the First World War, in which songs of the era are performed against a backdrop conveying the harsh realities of war, will feature Ian Reddington (Eastenders, Coronation Street), Christopher Villiers (Emmerdale) and Wendi Peters, best known as Cilla Battersby in Coronation Street, in the cast. See the website www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Ricky and co are kings of the castle

WARWICK Castle will be the location for Sounds in the Grounds this summer, a pair of concerts for rock and classical music fans.

The event will kick off on July 10 with a gig by Kaiser Chiefs, featuring singer and The Voice judge Ricky Wilson, with support from rapper Professor Green and rising star singer Ella Eyre. Then on July 11 The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra present a Proms style repertoire for flag-waving crowds. Secial guest will be The Voice 2015 runner-up, Dublin opera singer Lucy O'Byrne.

For more information see www.soundsinthegrounds.com

Read the Bible TODAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

You're welcome to join us for any of the following events

- Sunday 3rd May 2:30pm - Bible talk ***What the Bible really says about God and His Son.***
- Friday 8th May 7pm - Youth Group ***German themed evening.***
- Sunday 10th May 6pm - Bible talk ***What did Jesus believe?***
- Monday 11th May 10:30am - Mums and Tots
- Friday 15th May 5pm - Junior Youth Group - ***Nature printing.****
- Sunday 17th May 6pm - Bible talk ***Then, now, tomorrow and you.***
- Monday 18th May 10:30am - Mums and Tots
- Friday 22nd May 7pm - Youth Group ***Bike ride.****
- Sunday 24th May 6pm - Bible talk ***Countdown to Armagedon.***
- Sunday 31st May 6pm - Bible talk ***The folly of humanism.***
- Monday 1st June 10:30am - Mums and Tots
- Friday 5th June 7pm - Youth Group ***Capture the flag.****
- Sunday 7th June 2:30pm - Bible talk ***The influence of the English Bible.***

All take place at the Christadelphian hall, Price Street, Cannock, WS11 0DS unless indicated by *. Please contact us via our website for further details on where to meet for these events.

We also hold a Bible study class most Wednesday evenings at 7:45pm. Please see our website for further details.

www.cannockchristadelphians.org.uk

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Historic Muncaster Castle, still a lived-in family home, is the jewel in the crown

Ravenglass & Eskdale steam railway is popular

Rivers meet sea – coastal hamlet Ravenglass lies on the estuary of three rivers

Stunning countryside will greet you

This country break was fit for royalty and certainly suited me

ONE of the most naturally beautiful regions in England, the Lake District has long inspired the nation.

By Leigh Sanders

From William Wordsworth and the Lake Poets to the death of Joe McIntyre in Coronation Street, the Lakes have inspired popular culture as well as bringing in tourists with its stunning scenery and welcoming retreats.

Foremost in popularity is, of course, Windermere – the largest lake in the country. But dig a little further afield and there are plenty of fantastic finds spread across Cumbria.

Take, for example, the haven of Ravenglass. Home to roughly 200 residents it is the only coastal settlement in the region and sits on the mouths of three rivers – the Esk, Mite and Irt. Dating back to the Second Century it was an important naval base to the Romans and is steeped in history.

From the visible remains of a Roman bathhouse to the stunning Muncaster Castle lying a mile or so inland, there is plenty to keep you occupied while abandoning the rigours of driving for a couple of days.

Haunted

Muncaster is a must for anyone visiting the area. It is home to many ghostly tales and strange happenings which add to its intrigue. You can rent it out privately for any function ranging from university reunions to weddings. One of the main legends surrounds the wandering, dethroned Henry VI after a defeat in the War of the Roses.

After being given sanctuary at Muncaster, on his leaving he gave his drinking bowl to the Pennington family declaring that as long as it stayed intact they would live and thrive in the place.

There is talk of a haunted bedroom, which needs to be seen before trying to make up your mind, while the legend of Tom Fool and his tenure as jester to the Pennington family landed the word 'tomfoolery' into our language and led to the brewing of a rather scrumptious ale in the area.

But topping all the history is the stunning views northwards over the Eskdale Valley towards Scafell Pike – England's highest mountain. Ruskin described it as 'the gateway to paradise', and standing outside the castle's main entrance you can see why. The grounds are extensive, hosting many walks, and there is the World Owl Centre – home to an extremely rare Ethiopian eagle owl. When your feet are all walked out, Ravenglass hosts three great locations to recharge with food and drink.

The Pennington Hotel restaurant, The Inn @ Ravenglass and The Ratty Arms all serve up tantalising fish dishes and a bevy of locally brewed ales.

Other than the impressive Muncaster and the historic Ravenglass & Eskdale Steam Railway that provides transport inland to Dalegarth and Boot, there is no real need to pay entry to an attraction. Thousands of strolls await.

Once you have seen the coast it is worth heading inland to see what else the Lakes have to offer. If the tourist-orientated Windermere isn't to your taste then head north through Kirkstone Pass towards Ullswater – the second largest expanse of water. Kirkstone Pass offers too many Middle Earth-esque views to mention.

If a country break is what you require then look no further.

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CHOICE

Mark Harmon

NCIS
Channel 5, 8.20pm)
The shooting of a petty officer looks like an open-and-shut case when a Russian man is found with a recently fired gun in his car. However, the investigation takes a dramatic turn when it is revealed he is working as a spy for the Department of Homeland Security.
American drama following the work of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service that investigates cases involving the US Navy and Marine Corps. Starring Mark Harmon alongside Michael Weatherly, Pauley Perrette, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Sean Murray, Lauren Holly, Armando Molina, VJ Foster, Nolan North, Albie Selznick, Ravil Isyanov, Geoff Pierson

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Football Focus: Championship Special. **2.15** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10 Film:** WALL.E. (2008) Pixar animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Burtt.

6.40 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

6.55 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong quizzes a line-up of contestants who work on shows with a wildlife or natural history theme. They are birdwatcher Bill Oddie and historian Tessa Dunlop, Countryfile presenters John Craven and Shauna Lowry, TV gardener Diarmuid Gavin and Coast presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff, and Blue Peter hosts-turned-wildlife presenters Helen Skelton and Radzi Chinyanganya. Richard Osman is the man with the answers.

7.45 Atlantis. Jason's discovery has blackened his heart, leaving him careless and foolhardy – so a concerned Pythagoras sets out in search of someone who can help save his friend.

8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which up to five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Jenni Falconer, with guest Brian Conley.

9.20 Casualty. Connie goes on trial for Alfred's murder, Rita suspects a young girl who cut her wrists is being abused and Mac helps a woman cope with her mother, who has dementia.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Liverpool v Queens Park Rangers and Manchester United v West Bromwich Albion; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Gambling House. (1950) **7.35 Film:** The Red Beret. (1953) **9.00** The Nature of Britain. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.00** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **2.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **2.20** Timewatch: Inside the Mind of Adolf Hitler. (R) **3.10** Timewatch: The Making of Adolf Hitler. (R) **4.00** The World's Most Photographed. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **5.30** Iceland – Land of Ice and Fire: Natural World. (R)

6.30 Dad's Army. First-ever episode of the classic comedy, in which bank manager George Mainwaring assembles a motley crew of volunteers to protect Britain from Nazi invasion. Arthur Lowe stars. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. This match produced a thriller last year between Mark Selby and Neil Robertson, with both men aiming to reach their second final, and it was Selby who prevailed 17-15 in an encounter that lasted more than 12 hours. The commentary team includes Dennis Taylor, Willie Thorne and Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

9.30 Film: Quartet. (2012) Three former opera singers prepare for their annual concert to mark Verdi's birthday and raise funds for their retirement home. However, this year, a famous diva has joined the group, and her history with the others threatens the performance. Comedy drama, directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Tom Courtenay, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon.

11.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Noel Fielding, Ross Noble and Colin Lane join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of kit and kaboodle. (R)

11.50 Film: Perfume: The Story of a Murderer. (2006) Period thriller, with Ben Whishaw, Dustin Hoffman and Alan Rickman.

2.00 Film: Honeymooner. (2010)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.45** Doc Martin. (R) **2.50** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50 Film:** The Great Outdoors. (1988) Comedy, starring John Candy and Dan Aykroyd. **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 New You've Been Framed! Unleashed! Painful pranks, below-the-belt mishaps and stunts gone wrong are on the menu in this special edition, as Harry Hill reveals some of the wildest accidents caught on camera by viewers.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Contenders from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in the fourth heat of the obstacle-course challenge, all hoping to progress to the semi-finals.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the fourth audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – give their verdicts on more of the nation's best, and worst, performers. Queuing up to take the stage, acts of all ages and abilities are determined to prove they're worthy of the £250,000 cash prize and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance, but while some of them will be deserving, the dream will be over for those whose auditions are cut short by the panel.

9.15 Play to the Whistle. Team captains Bradley Walsh and Frank Lampard are joined by guests including Dermot O'Leary and Romesh Ranganathan. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Film: Cliffhanger. (1993) A retired mountain rescue expert is drawn into a battle of wits with a criminal searching for a lost fortune in the Rockies. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and John Lithgow.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Challenge Dubai. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Including the 2,000 Guineas at 3.45. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.20 Come Dine with Me. Estate agent Wendy Tinnion hosts the final night in Cumbria, and her guests are in for a shock when they discover something unexpected. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.15 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister gets to fulfil an ultimate high-octane dream and drive some of Britain's most iconic police cars. Alongside him is former cop Ant Anstead, who demonstrates how to master these versatile vehicles. The duo get to work restoring a Rover SD1 discovered on a driveway in Essex, and push a 1959 Daimler Dart to the limit re-enacting the notorious "Liver Run", accompanied by out-riders on the M11, and through the busy streets of London. (R)

8.15 Film: Men in Black II. (2002) Agent J investigates the unauthorised landing of a spacecraft and discovers a malevolent alien disguised as a lingerie model is on the verge of destroying humanity. His only hope of stopping her diabolical plot is to restore the memory of his retired partner K – but his former mentor takes more than a little convincing. Sci-fi comedy sequel, directed by Barry Sonnenfeld, starring Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Rosario Dawson, Lara Flynn Boyle, Johnny Knoxville, Rip Torn and Tony Shalhoub.

10.00 Film: Dredd. (2012) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban and Lena Headey.

11.55 Stephen Merchant: Hello Ladies. The Office co-creator's critically acclaimed 2011 stand-up comedy show, based on his experiences of the rocky road to finding love. (R)

12.55 The Last Leg. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.05** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.00** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **1.00** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **2.00 Film:** Columbo Undercover. (1994) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.55 Film:** Secret Liaison. (2013) Thriller, starring Meredith Monroe. **5.35** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)

6.30 Britain's Horror Homes. A man who turned his house into a fortress after being burgled 10 times, and an engineer who devised a plan to reduce the risk of his property being flooded again. (R)

7.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul Bohill and Ben Pinner are called in to evict squatters from a residential property, and it soon becomes clear that things are not quite what they seem. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred arrive at a restaurant in north London to collect unpaid rent, but the situation becomes heated and the debtors make accusations to the police that could ruin the High Court enforcement agents' careers. (R)

8.15 5 News Weekend.

8.20 NCIS. A Russian man becomes the prime suspect when a petty officer is found dead, but receives protection from the Department of Homeland Security. (R)

9.10 NCIS. The team investigates the murder of a lance corporal, whose body has been found in an empty house, and discovers he had a number of spurned lovers and a $2million inheritance. Ducky and Gibbs interview one of the dead marine's partners, but disagree over whether she is telling the truth. David McCallum and Mark Harmon star. (R)

10.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A caped vigilante is killed while trying to protect a homeless man from a brutal gang, and footage of vandals attacking a shop on the same night offers a potential line of inquiry.

11.05 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A teenage girl is hurt in a fall, but doctors discover she is also suffering from injuries sustained in an attack, setting Benson and Stabler off on a search for her assailant. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes – Not in 3D **7.10** Top Gear **8.10** Don't Tell the Bride **9.10** Live at the Apollo **10.10** Happy Valley **11.10** Family Guy **1.25** Killer Magic **1.55** Live at the Apollo **2.55** Tatau **3.35** Vodka Diaries **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Len Goodman's Big Band Bonanza **11.45** Top of the Pops: 1980 **12.15** Chas & Dave: Last Orders **1.15** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **2.15** Wild China **3.15** Close

ITV2
11.05 Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.25** A Night in with Olly Murs **2.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45 Film:** Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey (1993) **4.30** Mr Bean **5.40 Film:** Johnny English (2003) **7.30 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice: Keith's Birthday Party **11.00** Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** Hell's Kitchen **2.05** Crazy Beaches

ITV3
11.15 Agatha Christie's Marple **1.20 Film:** Carry On Screaming (1966) **3.15** Wycliffe **4.25 Film:** Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Inspector Morse **1.25** Wire in the Blood

ITV4
11.25 Pawn Stars **2.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the second stage of the inaugural race. **4.00** Storage Wars **5.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Shed and Buried **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00 Film:** From Russia with Love (1963) **10.25 Film:** Manny (2014)

E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Jane the Virgin **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Coming to America (1988) **11.20** The IT Crowd **12.25** The Inbetweeners **1.25** Rude Tube **2.25** Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos **3.20** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.30** Make It or Break It

Film4
11.00 Bugsy Malone (1976) **1.00** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **2.55** The Wackiest Ship in the Army (1960) **5.00** Fool's Gold (2008) **7.15** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** Season of the Witch (2011) **10.45** The Pact (2012) **12.30** Scary Movie 2 (2001) **2.10** Shutter (2008) **3.55** Close

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CHOICE

Hazel Irvine

Live Snooker: The World Championship (BBC2, 7.00pm)

Hazel Irvine presents all the latest action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Ronnie O'Sullivan winning five frames to move into a 10-7 lead heading into the final day against Mark Selby. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry. The team will certainly be able to relate to the pressure felt by the players here today. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Pets – Wild at Heart. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise – School Choir of the Year. **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. The team celebrates spring, as Matt Baker meets orphan lambs in north Wales, Ellie Harrison listens to seasonal sounds and Anita Rani visits an unusual barbecue. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.30 Antiques Roadshow. A visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, where items include insect jewellery, a silver cup from the time of Oliver Cromwell and a claymore sword from the Boer War.

8.30 The C Word. Sheridan Smith stars in this drama based on the blog and book by Lisa Lynch, an account of her life after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Twenty-eight-year-old Lisa's life is going exactly the way she wanted – she has recently married the man of her dreams and her career is on the up. Then out of the blue, she receives a shocking a diagnosis from the doctor that threatens to stop her in her tracks. Right from the start, however, Lisa is determined not to let cancer change her, and begins to write about her experience – unaware of the effect it will have on her life and that of others. Paul Nicholls, Haydn Gwynne and Michael Maloney co-star.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City at White Hart Lane and Chelsea v Crystal Palace.

11.35 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the final weekend of the regular season in League One, including Colchester United v Preston North End.

12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **6.30** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.10** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.40** Back in Time for Dinner. (R) **12.40** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.40** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre.

6.00 Flog It! David Fletcher and Anita Manning search for collectibles at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, valuing items including Murano glass figurines and a Newcastle shipyard visitors' book. Paul Martin also explores the building's State Rooms, learning about the Percy family's tastes. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Ronnie O'Sullivan winning five frames to move into a 10-7 lead heading into the final day against Mark Selby. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

11.00 W1A. Anna puts herself forward for the newly advertised role of Head of Better, and rumours circulate that Newsnight anchor Evan Davis is to be a contestant on Strictly Come Dancing. (R)

11.30 Film: The Accidental Husband. (2008) A radio host planning her wedding discovers she is already legally married to a man she has never even met. Romantic comedy, with Uma Thurman, Colin Firth and Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

12.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. From the Peak District, with items on making the countryside accessible to the disabled, the National Search and Rescue Dog Association, the Pennine Way and preventing hayfever. (R) **1.50** Holby City. Annabelle and Zosia disagree with Guy over a special case, a new pair of shoes gets Serena into an embarrassing situation with a new admirer and Mo arranges to meet her real father. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **2.45 Film:** Dragnet. (1987) Spoof crime drama, starring Dan Aykroyd and Tom Hanks. **4.50** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)

6.50 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Celebrity Squares. Julian Clary, Katherine Ryan, Paul Hollywood, Ugo Monye, Hayley Tamaddon, Doon Mackichan and Paul Chowdhry join regulars Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the grid. Warwick Davis hosts.

8.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. New series. Bradley Walsh hosts the variety show this week, with performances by Olly Murs, Madness, Alfie Boe, Jo Brand, slapstick duo Men in Coats and animal act Olate Dogs.

9.00 Home Fires. New series. Drama about the lives of a group of Women's Institute members in a rural Cheshire community during the Second World War. In the face of an impending conflict with Germany, the Great Paxford WI faces a difficult decision. When president Joyce Cameron resigns, taking most of the membership with her, Frances Barden and her supporters must recruit new helpers from unexpected places. Starring Samantha Bond, Francesca Annis, Ruth Gemmell, Claire Rushbrook and Frances Grey, with Ed Stoppard and Mark Bazeley.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Perspectives: Rick Wakeman on Vivaldi's Four Seasons. The prog rock keyboardist explores the story of the famous classical piece, finding out why it disappeared into obscurity for more than 200 years after the composer's death.

11.20 Churchill: 100 Days That Saved Britain. (R)

12.15 The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Caterham Motorsports. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Including the 1,000 Guineas at 3.40. **4.00** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.20 Film:** The Karate Kid. (2010) Martial arts drama, with Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan.

8.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead turn their attention to the 1980s "hot hatch" – city run-a-rounds, such as the Volkswagen Golf GTi and Peugeot 205, which became must-haves for boy racers. They help transform a Golf GTi Mk 1 into a rally car and meet hatchback fanatics to discover why people are so passionate about these vehicles and how, for some, they defined an era.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. New series. Jimmy Carr returns with this comedy version of the famous afternoon game show, with Sean Lock, Bill Bailey and Paul Foot going up against guest captain Sarah Millican with Rob Delaney and Romesh Ranganathan. Nina Conti joins Countdown's resident lexicographer Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner, while Rachel Riley looks after the letters and numbers at the board.

10.05 An Immigrant's Guide to Britain. Comedian and first-generation immigrant Henning Wehn leads an irreverent guide to life in Britain from the perspective of some of its most notoriously polarising inhabitants.

10.35 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.40 Bill Bailey Qualmpeddler. Stand-up comedy from London's Hammersmith Apollo, accompanied by light-hearted musical numbers, from religious dubstep and German folk-metal to a reggae version of Downton Abbey. (R)

12.40 Film: 12 Rounds. (2009) **2.35** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **3.30 Film:** Ashad Ka Ek Din. (1971) **5.35** The Common Denominator. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Mio Mao. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.25** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.20** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20 Film:** Blue Streak. (1999) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **3.05 Film:** Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **5.00 Film:** Holes. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf.

7.05 5 News Weekend.

7.10 Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) A seemingly dizzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrols at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students do their best to humiliate her. Comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthew Davis and Victor Garber. Edited for language.

9.00 Film: Resident Evil: Afterlife. (2010) Premiere. Zombie-fighting heroine Alice roams the post-apocalyptic wasteland searching for human survivors. An encounter with an old friend leads her to a rumoured sanctuary in Los Angeles, but she discovers she has walked into a deadly trap and must once again battle the hordes of the living dead. Action horror sequel, starring Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter and Wentworth Miller.

11.05 Film: Gamer. (2009) A convict is forced to take part in a violent real-life video game using mind-control technology, but plans to escape. Sci-fi thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Michael C Hall.

12.45 Jackass. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Dr Opong sees a patient who is terrified he might have cancer. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Live Diving. Coverage of the World Series event in London. **8.05 Film:** Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) **10.00** Tatau **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **11.55** Family Guy **12.15** Tatau **1.00** Teen Model Factory: Reggie Yates' Extreme Russia **1.55** Killer Magic **2.25** Flat TV **2.45** Tatau **3.30** Killer Magic **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **8.00** National Gallery: A Film by Frederick Wiseman **10.55** Imagine – Rod Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now **12.20** Rod Stewart at the BBC **1.20** BBC Young Dancer 2015 **2.20** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **3.20** Close

ITV2

12.00 Take Me Out **1.10** Scorpion **2.05 Film:** Scooby-Doo (2002) **3.55 Film:** Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco (1996) **5.40** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00** You've Been Framed! Yearbook **9.00 Film:** Knocked Up (2007) **11.35 Film:** The Bourne Ultimatum (2007) **1.45** Mom **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.55 Wycliffe **1.00 Film:** Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) **2.40** Lewis **4.45** A Touch of Frost **6.50** Inspector Morse **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Wycliffe **11.10 Film:** The Color Purple (1985) **2.05** Secret Smile **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.50 Pawn Stars **12.45 Film:** Tobruk (1967) **3.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the third and final stage of the inaugural race. **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.45 Film:** National Lampoon's Vacation (1983) **11.50 Film:** Buried (2010) **1.40** I Want That Car **2.30** Whisker Wars **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Made in Chelsea **1.00** Revenge **2.00** Jane the Virgin **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **10.00** The IT Crowd **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Rude Tube **1.15** Virtually Famous

Film4

11.00 Carry On Up the Khyber (1968) **1.00** Mighty Joe Young (1998) **3.15** Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **5.00** Jumper (2008) **6.45** Multiplicity (1996) **9.00** Men in Black 3 (2012) **11.10** Monsters (2010) **1.00** 20,000 Days on Earth (2014) **3.10** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Lord of War, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A Ukrainian immigrant in New York sells guns to local mobsters, and when he gains access to a vast supply of Soviet weaponry at the end of the Cold War he expands his operation overseas – but makes the mistake of doing business with an African warlord. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke, Jared Leto, Bridget Moynahan, Eamonn Walker and Ian Holm. (2005)

TUESDAY

=Far and Away, Channel 5, 11pm

Penniless Irish farmer Joseph seeks revenge on the cruel landowner who drove him from his home. However, the landlord's daughter, desperate to escape her family, persuades him to join her in seeking their fortune in America. Romantic drama set in the 1890s, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. (1992)

Dante's Peak, Friday, ITV, 10.50pm

WEDNESDAY

A Few Best Men, BBC1, 11.20pm

An Englishman falls in love with a woman he meets on holiday in Australia, and asks her to marry him. However, he then makes the mistake of bringing three friends over to be his best men. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel, Laura Brent and Kris Marshall. (2011)

THURSDAY

Kinky Boots, BBC2, 10.30pm

A man inherits a struggling shoe factory, but salvation arrives when a Soho cabaret singer comes up with a plan for the business to manufacture specialist footwear for drag artists. However, the stunned workforce has to be won over, and the new designs prove their worth at a high-profile fashion show. Comedy drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor. (2005)

FRIDAY

Dante's Peak, ITV, 10.50pm

A vulcanologist's suspicions that a long-dormant volcano is about to erupt turn out to be true, prompting him to race against time to save the community standing in its way – and clash with local government officials. Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan and Linda Hamilton. (1997)

Shocking case leaves a race against time

Do we really need another new police drama? Well, it if it's written by Paul Abbott, the man who gave us Shameless and State of the Play, then yes, we probably do.

He certainly thinks that his new series, No Offence, is filling a gap in the TV market.

The writer explains: "No Offence came after searching for a concept that would match a Shameless landscape, which is enormous. I love cop shows, I love comedies, and nobody has found a blended set of ingredients that make that work and feel like the cop series I wanted to make."

Before fans of E4's import Brooklyn Nine-Nine start raising objections, Abbott makes it clear that his series can't really be called a sitcom.

"No Offence is proudly a procedural drama, but it's not what I started writing. I thought we were getting away with writing a comedy in my head, but it was just too big and eventually it got squeezed all the way back down to near real life but not real life – it's heightened by two millimetres – and I think it is those two millimetres that define the personality of No Offence.

"You can't call it a comedy, as it's as dark as can be… and it gets darker and darker."

He adds: "No Offence is trying to fit a square peg in a round hole and we've done it beautifully, with a set of ingredients that don't look like they should belong together, but they do."

As it's no ordinary police show, it makes sense that the team are no ordinary coppers. Led by the very capable, but slightly unhinged DI Vivienne Deering (Joanna Scanlan), and her right-hand women DC Dinah Kowalska (Elaine Cassidy) and DS Joy Freers (Alexandra Roach), they work some very mean streets, which would leave lesser officers considering a change of career, but they largely take in their stride.

Abbott says: "I love watching people being good at their job. I remember I used to watch Casualty when all they did was complain about the agency nurses and I'd shout 'go get another job.' I don't want to watch people moaning about their occupation on TV – it's like being haunted by your eight-hour shift isn't it?"

However, in this first episode, it looks like even this apparently unshockable team – which also includes Will Mellor as DC Spike Tanner and Colin Salmon as Det Supt Darren Maclaren – are about to be confronted with one of their most difficult case as Kowalska notices a pattern connecting the deaths of two young women. It seems the team could be dealing with a serial killer – and a third girl has gone missing…

Again, it may not sound original, but that's not really the point.

Abbott says: "I don't write for shock value. I think all crimes have been seen on television before, whether on the News At Ten or in a drama. But No Offence isn't about whether you've seen them before, it's about the attitude towards them. We've done it with such dignity and humanity."

Will Mellor stars in No Offence, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

How the Other Half Eat

Channel 4, 7.30pm

Food shopping these days isn't simply a case of nipping down to the supermarket and picking up whatever takes your fancy. Instead, there's a startling array of products on offer, from no frills items that may lack a little finesse, to the most expensive, top-of-the-range produce whose packaging is almost a work of art in itself. And then there's a heap of stuff in between. This new series follows two families who live close to each other, but whose shopping and eating habits are miles apart. They change places for four days, during which they'll sample the food usually eaten by each other's families. Once the experiment is over, we'll discover whether they go back to their old ways, or change their approach for good.

VE Day: Remembering Victory

BBC1, 8.30pm

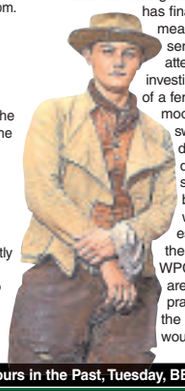
On Friday May 8, it will be 70 years since Winston Churchill announced the Second World War in Europe was over, prompting Britain to throw the biggest street party the country has ever seen. David Attenborough, Bruce Forsyth, Miriam Margolyes and June Whitfield are just a few of the well-known figures sharing their memories of the end of the conflict. Narrated by Julie Walters, with contributions from others including Johnny Ball, Honor Blackman, Jilly Cooper, John Craven, Cleo Laine, Kenny Lynch, Michael Parkinson, Leslie Phillips, Anne Reid, Esther Rantzen, Patrick Stewart and Una Stubbs. VE Day: Live from the Cenotaph is on Friday on BBC One at 2.45pm.

TUESDAY

24 Hours in the Past

BBC1, 9pm

Living reality documentary in which six celebrities experience the working lives of the poor in Victorian times. There's no rest for the unlucky volunteers after the filth of the dustyard as they are sent to work at a recreated coaching inn – the 19th-century equivalent of the motorway service station. Alistair McGowan, Ann Widdecombe, Zoe Lucker, Colin Jackson, Tyger Drew-Honey and Miquita Oliver find themselves constantly against the clock as there are horses to be groomed, coaches to be cleaned, guests to be fed, sheets to be laundered and chamber pots to be emptied. Will they all have the stamina to survive the long hours and relentless grind - especially with two further days to go?



24 Hours in the Past, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

Inspector George Gently

BBC1, 8pm

All good things must come to an end, but that idea won't make it any easier for Gently to deal with losing Bacchus. His right-hand man has finally been promoted, which means he will need a new sergeant. But for now, Gently's attention is taken by an investigation into the discovery of a female GP's corpse on the moors. She suffered from mood swings and motor neurone disease, which makes the detective's colleagues think she committed suicide, but Gently is convinced she was murdered – and her estranged husband becomes the prime suspect. Feisty WPC Rachel Coles grew up in the area covered by the GP's practice, and helps with the inquiry – surely she would make the ideal replacement for Bacchus?

THURSDAY

Shark

BBC1, 8.55pm

New series. Wildlife documentary venturing below the waves to examine the ocean predators' behaviour. The first film reveals their many different hunting methods, from blacktip sharks gathering in huge packs and herding fish into baitballs, to tasselled wobbegongs, which ambush their prey. Other highlights include Greenland sharks, which live under the arctic ice, whitetip reef sharks – arguably the masters of night-time hunting – and the great white, shown stalking fur seals off the coast of South Africa.

FRIDAY

Secrets of Great British Castles

Channel 5, 8pm

Dan Jones explores the history of Carrickfergus Castle in Co Antrim, one of the most ancient castles in Northern Ireland and a stronghold key to understanding the tempestuous relationship between Britain and Ireland. Dan travels to Rathlin island, where he reveals how hundreds of women and children were massacred in the name of Elizabeth I, and visits the tomb of former governor Arthur Chichester, who began a new colonisation strategy using scorched earth tactics and laid waste to much of the land surrounding the town.

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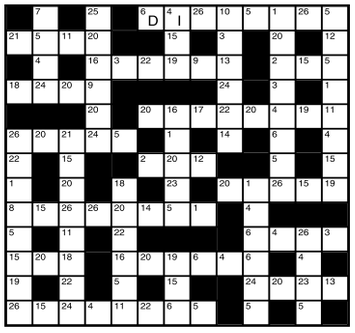
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
J	B	Q	I	R	K	N	F	G	S	U	P	E
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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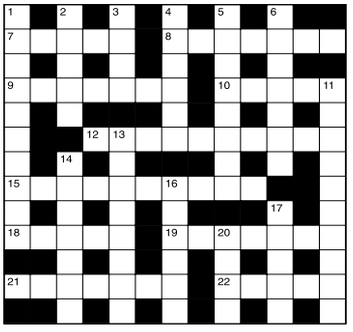
Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. The way the tour is diverted to the East (5)
8. Becomes snarled up at corner in back-street (7)
9. An insult to a sea-side promenade, we hear (7)
10. The French travel south to Nigerian port (5)
12. You could find these right in the main shopping centre (4,6)
15. Right-handed key (6,4)
18. This coin was a sovereign (5)
19 & 13Dn. This will deceive the pupils (7,8)
21. Individual after different name for a flower (7)
22. Get to the bottom and connect the pipe-line (5)

Down

1. Normal, neat decorative arrangement (10)
2. They went round the necks of thugs, we hear (5)
3. Famous fiddler in Stainer oratorio (4)
4. What the needle produces is an acute pain (6)
5. Take out of gear (8)
6. Did some signalling, but became weary (7)
11. Complete black suit needed by one who goes round the course (3,2,5)
13. See 19 Across
14. Declines to put rubbish on the top of the scrap-heap (7)
16. Mob round the East whooped in triumph (6)
17. Show disdain for one who reconnoitres (5)
20. Betty Perkins to do some secretarial work inside (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Precept (5)
8. Flood (7)
9. A month (7)
10. Sugary (5)
12. Affirm (10)
15. Emphasise (10)
18. Lock (5)
19. Relations (7)
21. Dirty (7)
22. Goodbye (5)

Down

1. Book-keeper (10)
2. Join (5)
3. Door handle (4)
4. Famish (6)
5. Expectation (8)
6. Indefinite (7)
11. Huge (10)
13. Ominous (8)
14. Shriek (7)
16. Harsh (6)
17. Coach (5)
20. Tidy (4)

Sudoku

7	9			5		2		
	3			9			4	5
		8	1					3
6			8		5	9		
5		1					3	8
		9	4					6
					7	8		
8	2			3			7	
		7		8			1	4

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	8	2	3	5	1	7	6
7	6	1	9	8	4	5	3	2
5	2	3	6	1	7	9	8	4
6	4	7	5	2	3	8	1	9
9	8	2	4	7	1	3	6	5
3	1	5	8	9	6	4	2	7
2	5	9	3	6	8	7	4	1
8	7	4	1	5	2	6	9	3
1	3	6	7	4	9	2	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Restraint; 8 Air; 9 Incantation; 11 Artiste; 12 Posts; 13 Canvas; 15 Prefer; 17 Avast; 18 Celsius; 20 Tuition fees; 22 Ewe; 23 Elephants. Down: 2 Eon; 3 Rings; 4 Images; 5 Tripper; 6 Sands of time; 7 Treasures; 10 Cotoneaster; 11 Archangel; 14 Astride; 16 Scribe; 19 Lunch; 21 Eat. QUICK - Across: 1 Prostrate; 8 Let; 9 Storm-signal; 11 Builder; 12 Baste; 13 Idiocy; 15 Repose; 17 Knave; 18 Patriot; 20 Intercepted; 22 Set; 23 Respected. Down: 2 Rat; 3 Timid; 4 Aviary; 5 Ennoble; 6 Illusionist; 7 Statement; 10 Originality; 11 Briskness; 14 Creator; 16 Sports; 19 Theme; 21 Ere.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who is credited with discovering penicillin in 1928?
2. In which country are the Queen's bodyguards the Royal Company of Archers?
3. What was IRA man Dominic McGlinchey's nickname?
4. Who wrote Strangers on a Train?
5. Which bird has honey and rough-legged varieties?
6. Which country was formerly known as the Gold Coast?
7. Which skier is known as La Bomba?
8. Who wrote Our Man in Havana?
9. Which river divides Kentish Men from Men of Kent?
10. Which composer's Adagietto from his 5th Symphony was used in the film Death In Venice?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Henry VIII; 2 James Herriot; 3 Essex; 4 Rene Descartes; 5 Grandsons; 6 Wild pansy; 7 Heroin; 8 Daniel Radcliffe; 9 Robinson Crusoe; 10 Inter Milan.

Niner: UNLOCATED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

578 gives a nocturnal mammal,
98678 gives a kind of weasel,
31249 gives insects.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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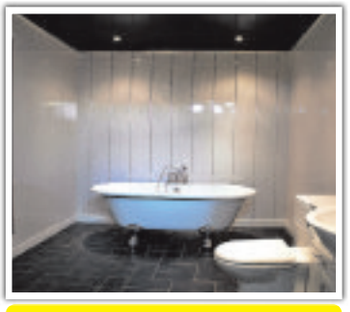

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Visit the wonderful 16th century city of Valletta and enjoy a guided walking tour. The area has a Mediterranean atmosphere and appearance, with quiet squares lined with restaurants and intricate wrought iron balconies. A day is also spent on the nearby island of Gozo visiting its capital Victoria, and Ggantija, the largest and best preserved of the island's prehistoric temple sites.

Take the short drive to ancient Mdina, the jewel in the crown of the entire island and until medieval times, Malta's capital. Perched on a hill and surrounded by huge walls, its narrow streets and alleys ooze history.

A visit is also made to the amazing Neolithic temples at Tarxien, which date between 3,000 and 1,800 BC and showcase the ancient cultures of Malta.

INFO

- Return flights
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- Guided tour of Valletta
- Tour of the island of Gozo
- Guided tour of Rabat and Mdina
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- Entrance to Windy Hall Gardens
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- Entrance to Brantwood House and gardens
- Entrance to the gardens at Levens Hall
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Glorious Goodwood

Two days departing August 1

PRICE FROM £119

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- Overnight half-board accommodation
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- Visit to Windsor
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Suffolk Skies, Coast and Country

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- Entrance to Bridge Cottage to see the John Constable Exhibition
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Sinatra The Man and his Music at the London Palladium

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- Visit to Cordoba
- Visit to Ronda
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subjec to availability - supplement applies

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Fay's farewell to The Full English

Folk 'super group' The Full English is on its farewell tour. DANNY FARRAGHER talks to creator Fay Hield

Fay Hield, front right, and The Full English will play Town Hall, Birmingham

FOLK musician and academic Fay Hield is a woman who gets things done.

So when the English Folk Dance & Song Society(EFDSS) set up an online, searchable archive of nearly 60,000 items of social and musical history it turned to her to promote it.

Based in Sheffield, Hield, who has a doctorate in folk music, or to be precise ethnomusicology, had supported the project from the start and so EFDSS handed her the task of putting together a musical advert for the archive which became the award-winning The Full English music group.

"They(EFDSS) would have happily had me turn up with two musicians and sing some stuff but that's not what I wanted to do. "

So where did she start, did she turn to people she knew would be up for it, or did she throw it out there and see who showed interest?

"Oh God no, I couldn't just throw it out, I knew then I would be inundated and I would have to turn people down. No, I decided who I wanted in it and then approached them individually."

With her shopping list fixed in her mind there was then the hefty process of deciding which songs to use.

"The archive has 58,000 scans so I needed some kind of divvying up mechanism so I looked at who the collectors were.

"Martin Simpson was very keen to look at Lincolnshire collector Percy Grainger. Nancy Kerr was very keen to look at the women collectors.

"I wanted some broadsides as well as some ballads and thought Seth Lakeman would be great, so he took Frank Kidson. Also, I wanted tunes as well as songs so Sam Sweeney and Rob Harbron did some tune development, Ben came up with his own songs, and I kind of scooped up the rest really.

Nightmare

"I sent Seth a dozen broadsides, Martin some recordings and Nancy some stuff as well which I thought would be helpful, but nobody really used anything I sent," she says with a wry laugh.

With all the musicians pursuing their own careers was it a nightmare to get everyone together at the right time and place?

"It was quite difficult finding dates that were suitable for everyone. We had to do it intensively really, but the good side about everyone being so professional is that everyone is so professional, so if they say they are available for those dates, they turn up and work very hard."

And was there a point where she listened and thought Wow! This is going to work?

"Yes, the first rehearsal. I had four or five songs I was leading on and they were quite groupish and I split the vocals with Nancy."

Was the FE always going to be a short-term project?

"It was, and it was going to be much shorter than it has been. We have always had to extend it a little bit because of its success."

Was there a danger the band could become bigger than the project?

"The sole purpose of the band was to tell people about the archive, and get people to visit it, to me that was the only reason for doing it."

With the amount of material available, why stop now?

"It would be very easy for us to pull a second album together but we decided not to. "We wanted an example of what other people can do, it's over to you now."

The Full English play the Town Hall, Birmingham May 7. To visit the EFDSS archive go to www.vwml.org/browse/browse-collections-full-english.

Underage drinking led to trio's folk breakthrough

Award-winning singers The Young'uns are about to tour with a new album, DANNY FARRAGHER talks to one of the trio

From left, Sean Cooney, Michael Hughes and David Eagle

THEY have won best group in the 2015 Radio 2 Folk Awards, and are embarking on a tour on the back of their new album Another Man's Ground, so everything seems to be coming together for Teesside trio The Young'uns.

However, the start for Sean Cooney, David Eagle and Michael Hughes in Stockton about a decade ago was a little more haphazard as by Eagle's own admission they really stumbled on folk music because of a certain pub.

"Michael and Sean have known each other from primary school and I met them through a mutual friend when I was about 16.

"Then we just happened on our local folk club in a pub in Stockton which was one of the few places that would serve us beer even though we were underage.

"Fortuitously there was also a folk club there, but we had no idea what a folk club was at the time and we just became captivated.

"We were completely taken aback by people singing harmonies and in Teesside accents, singing Teesside stories, we had never heard anything like it."

The trio's first performances were influenced by another local singing group.

"First we started singing a lot of traditional songs based around a lot of what we had heard from The Wilson Family," admits Eagle, "The five brothers from Teesside who sing a lot of unaccompanied harmonies.

"Then as time went on we started singing songs about Teesside and from Graeme Miles and Ron Angel who was the founder of the club we went to in Stockton, then this led us to write our own songs.

"Sean started writing songs about Hartlepool and history, then as time's gone on we started writing about more modern day things so we sing songs about today's issues as well now. We've progressed quite a bit I suppose."

Progression

Part of that progression was the decision to make the leap from simply enjoying doing what they did to making it pay, which itself was almost killed before it got off the ground.

"I was all over the place," says Eagle in his definite Teesside accent, "I did voice over work and audio production. I then did a job for a charity teaching computers to blind people. Michael was an RE teacher.

"Sean did a lot of educational projects and he was the resident storyteller in a Manchester school. Then we all decided it was untenable to finish a day's work, zoom down the motorway to do a gig or a festival all weekend and then get back on Monday around 2am before going back to work again.

"It was more of an easy decision for me because I was already down to three days to accommodate freelance work.

"Michael's was probably the hardest decision. He was on a much bigger wage and in a proper, respected job.

"He did nearly put the scuppers on it because we had just decided to do it and he said I have just seen this placement at a grammar school and the salary is much better, but it would mean if I was going to do that then essentially I would have to knock the folk singing on the head entirely.

"Fortunately Mike came to his senses, remained with the dark side and stayed true to folk music," laughs Eagle.

The Young'uns play The Red Lion Folk Club, King's Heath, Birmingham on May 13. Doors open at 7.15pm, the show starting 7.45pm. Tickets are £11.

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Volvo dealership initiatives

By James Parker

With the imminent launch of the all-new XC90 marking a new chapter in its history, Volvo Car UK is setting new standards for its dealerships nationwide and introducing two new initiatives, Volvo Personal Service and Volvo Retail Experience.

The new concepts are designed to remove some of the perceived barriers between dealers and their customers and improve trust, customer service and overall impressions of the brand.

Volvo Retail Experience focuses on the space and design of the dealership and is designed to reflect Scandinavian-inspired values of calm, clean lines with 'cool on the outside and warm on the inside'-style architecture.

The aim of VRE is to create an environment for customers in which high levels of visual transparency are key. Large exterior and interior glazing allows customers to see all activity in the new workshops, turning the spotlight on what is often regarded as 'back of house'. Inside the showroom, there is a balanced focus on physical and digital presentation, making sure the sales and service areas are completely integrated to deliver an open, holistic environment.

Phil Hand, head of network development for Volvo Car UK, said: "VRE has been designed to tackle the challenge of bridging the gap between an ever-improving market sector and the current Volvo dealership customer experience. Workshops are integral to the customer experience, so being able to see in and out of the 'window' between the dealership spaces becomes a symbol of trust between Volvo and our customers.

"VRE isn't just about a change of furniture though – it's a new way of retailing designed to make our customers feel relaxed and at ease in an environment that informs and provides flexible waiting, working and assessment areas."

Intelligent

Len Hallows, managing director at TMS Hinckley – the latest dealership to reveal the VRE design, added: "The most critical aspect of VRE is that it finds more intelligent and appropriate ways of utilising available space within a dealership, balancing the overall appearance and presentation standards with the ability to operate in an uncluttered environment.

"We have already witnessed a change in customer attitudes when they visit the dealership by being able to relax more in our comfortable 'living room' area whilst they can see their vehicle in the workshop."

Also new to the Volvo network is Volvo Personal Service, which streamlines aftersales functions to improve workshop efficiency, job throughput and revenue opportunities for dealers, while delivering a much more personal service to Volvo customers via a dedicated service technician.

VPS, the new name for Volvo's 'One Hour Stop' service, is shaped by trust, transparency and respect for a customer's time. It works by utilising teams of Personal Service Technicians (PST) working on cars as groups rather than individually. This allows for work to be carried out twice as fast, nearly halving customer wait times.

'The most critical aspect of VRE is that it finds more intelligent and appropriate ways of utilising available space'

PSTs then become a single point of contact for the customer, who knows that the person they are talking to is the person directly responsible for their car. This personal relationship builds trust and transparency and helps ensure greater clarity and efficiency.

Volvo Car UK has worked closely with dealerships where necessary to adapt existing roles for service advisors and managers who will continue to oversee workshop and service operations ensuring no headcount loss during the implementation of VPS.

David Baddeley, VCUK customer service director, adds: "Delivering the Personal Service programme isn't simply the implementation of another 'initiative', it's about delivering a complete, and uniquely Volvo, aftersales customer experience.

"Keeping pace with new car technology, engineering and design, while integrating operations and aligning departments, developed a need for a change in how things are done and Volvo has tackled this head on with VPS."

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Supercar thrills from hatchback

Feast your eyes on the ultimate 308. Peugeot has unveiled a stunning new version of the award-winning compact family hatchback – with a combined 500bhp and four-wheel drive.

By Sharon Walters

Badged the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid, it has been developed by Peugeot Sport, the brand's in-house engineering and racing division, which last year unveiled the critically acclaimed RCZ R.

The car's plug-in petrol hybrid powertrain pushes the boundaries of sporting prowess in the segment, offering an extraordinary performance. The car is capable of hitting 62mph in four seconds, yet still has low CO2 emissions of 70g/km.

"Peugeot Sport's expertise applies an uncompromising approach to meeting targets. With our experience in hybrid vehicles developed with the Peugeot 908, the high-performance hybrid powertrain fitted to the 308 gives a glimpse of the potential for ultra-sports models in the future," said Bruno Famin, director at Peugeot Sport.

The contemporary style and sporting prowess of the 308 – the Car of the Year 2014 – remain clearly visible. However, the 308 R HYbrid also re-imagines design cues explored on the Quartz concept, seen most recently at March's Geneva Motor Show. It has front and rear tracks widened by 80mm and riding on 235/35 R19 tyres with front end styling that is dynamic and imposing. The grille features a chequered pattern which allows air to cool the innovative 500hp powertrain. The side scoops are home to the sequential LED indicators, while the central scoop sports the 308 R HYbrid signature.

Cloaked in an intense blue and developed using fluorescent pigments and glass particles, this colour salutes both the hybrid powertrain and the shade historically reserved for French competition vehicles. On the rear doors, the blue is matched with a matte black, giving a new interpretation of the car's clean lines.

At the rear, the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid is understated, with a narrow spoiler at the top of the tailgate. The bumper's twin air scoops help keep the battery temperature down by drawing out the hot air, whilst the lower section is embellished with a touch of white emphasising the car's dynamic character.

Peugeot 'i-Cockpit' instrumentation means the interior is familiar, but that's where similarities to the standard 308 end. Four individual sports seats create a dramatic interior which point to the sole aim of Peugeot 308 R HYbrid – world-class performance. The upper fittings and roof lining are slate grey and in sporting tradition, the cabin is finished with touches of red, with attention paid around the dials, steering wheel centre marker and central console.

In a unique twist, the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid uses materials taken from the range, which the brand usually reserves for concept cars. Hence, the dashboard is covered in a fabric produced using a digital weaving technique. This innovative material can be used to produce large and complex parts that are soft to the touch with no need for foam, making for a lighter vehicle.

The compact steering wheel, upholstered in perforated leather and bearing the '308 R HYbrid' logo, allows for precise positioning during cornering. The steering wheel paddles fall immediately to hand, giving the driver finger-tip control over the six-speed gearbox. A head-up display provides all relevant driving information without the need to take your eyes off the road. Finally, the two buttons on the central console allow the driver to keep a check on the mechanics; the first activates the powerful powertrain, whilst the second gives access to four driving modes.

At the heart of the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid is a technical innovation – a plug-in powertrain with four-wheel drive that develops 500hp. The unit combines three sources of power, each capable of moving the vehicle independently of the others. They are a four-cylinder 1.6-litre THP 270 S&S petrol engine, plus two electric motors – each with power of 85kW/115hp – mounted one on each axle. The front one is linked to the six-speed gearbox.

The result is a family hatchback which is capable of supercar performance. The Peugeot 308 R HYbrid can hit 62mph (100km/h) from a standing start in only 4.0 seconds, with top speed electronically limited to 155mph. In spite of this performance, CO2 emissions are just 70g/km.

"If we were able to reach this kind of performance on a C-segment, it is all down to our passion for a challenge and our desire for excellence. Peugeot 308 R HYbrid is part of a very select club of cars reaching 0-62mph in four seconds" said Jean-Philippe Delaire, Peugeot Sport head of development, 308 R HYbrid powertrain.

The Peugeot Sport engineers have equipped the car with four driving modes:

Hot Lap mode is the most powerful and can reach a total of 500hp and maximum torque of 730Nm.

Track mode delivers 400hp and 530Nm, mainly from the petrol engine and the rear electric motor.

Road mode is specially designed for road use with power of 300hp and torque of 400Nm.

ZEV makes priority use of the rear electric motor. The front electric motor comes into play, depending on the pressure applied on the accelerator pedal.

The all-wheel drive system of the 308 R HYbrid makes for formidable handling, especially when coming out of the corners.

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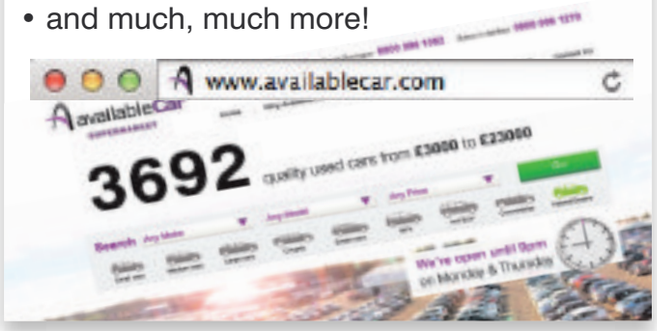

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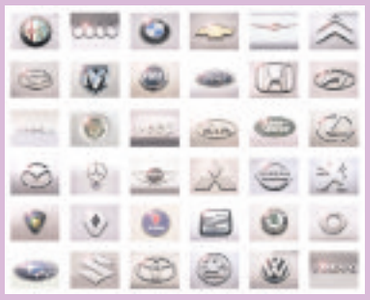

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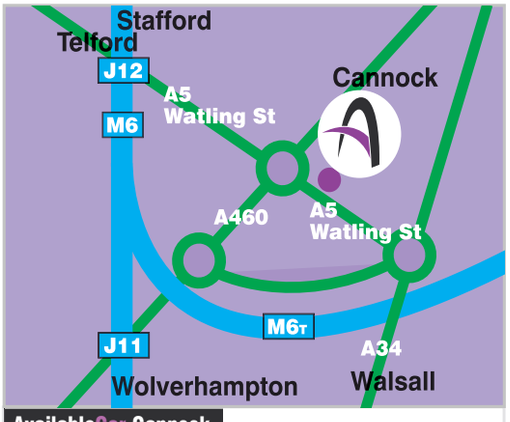

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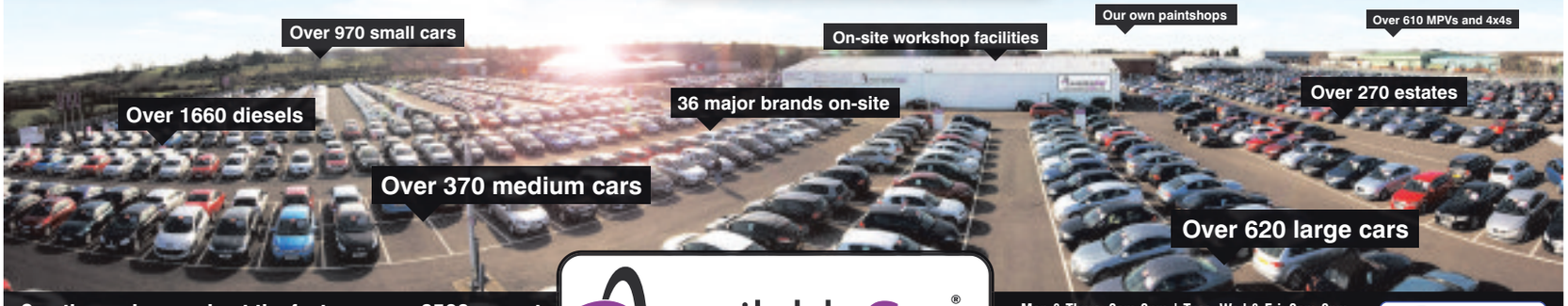

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The Chronicle Thursday, April 30, 2015

SEAT SUV is set for success

By Graham Breeze

With SEAT sales in the UK going through the roof, the timing looks perfect for the company to move into the SUV sector and the newly launched Leon X-Perience is a taste of things to come.

The company is planning a range of three SUVs over the next few years and while the name of the new model doesn't roll off the tongue too well it looks certain to be another big success.

The X-Perience is not a 'stand-out in the crowd' offering and its raised four-wheel drive set-up is a familiar look, but for the motorist looking for more space and some off- road ability it really fits the bill.

Leon was a great success in 2014, delivering 154,000 units, which was 49.9 per cent more than in 2013, making it the brand's best-selling model, and surpassing the Ibiza for the first time ever.

Now the first estate from the Leon family marries style, technology and driving dynamics with a 587-litre boot and four-wheel drive ability. Though don't be fooled into thinking this is an off-roader because there are limits.

The car runs in two-wheel drive mode for most of the time but if its intelligent system detects a slippy surface or increased weight the all-wheel drive system kicks in seamlessly – and I mean seamlessly.

On test was the 2.0TDi 150PS six-speed manual and it was virtually impossible to tell when the traction control system was telling the rear wheels to join in.

Separate

The SE model is identified by 18in alloys and black roof rails to separate it from the Leon family, along with twin exhausts and the X-Perience logo.

This model also gets a 'real spare wheel, a technology pack which includes a DAB radio, navigation system and a full LED headlight pack. You also get a convenience pack, elect mirrors, front sports seats with leather trim, a six-inch colour touch screen control system, iPod connectivity and the ability to select your own driving profile.

The test car had an on-the-road tag of £26,370 but cruise control, an improved sound system and rear air bags added to the price to total £28,285.

'It will be cheap enough to run too with advanced technologies meaning you can expect to get an average of 57.6mpg'

Surely the rear airbags should be standard?

This model is no slouch either with a top speed of 129mph and 0-62 in 8.7seconds. It will be cheap enough to run too with advanced technologies meaning you can expect to get an average of 57.6mpg with CO2 emissions of 129g/km.

Inside there's ample room for five and when you fold the splitting back seats there's enough space to cope with most family or sporting demands.

So who will buy this new arrival? SEAT has its eyes on other brand buyers who will be in the ABC1 bracket with children and an average age of 34 to 44.

They will come from the adventurous and young spirited group with a high proportion interested in outdoor sports such as cycling.

SEAT expects a 50/50 split between retail and fleet buyers and is looking for the X-Perience to account for eight per cent of all Leon ST sales. The 2.0TDi on test should be the best seller.

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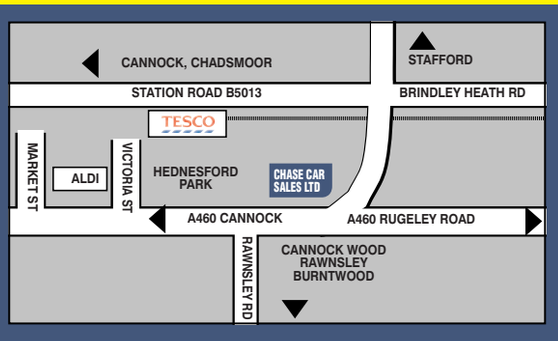

Specialist tuition at circuit

By James Parker

Get Going Live!, the test-driving event for young and novice drivers with disabilities, is back for 2015 and now incorporated into the well-known Mobility Roadshow at Donington Park, Derbyshire, June 25-27.

Get Going Live! is a free event focused on the needs of people age 15 and over that are keen to discover how to get behind the wheel of an accessible or adapted car.

All young visitors are welcome to attend the show with their families to discover the latest advice, specialist driving tuition and vehicles available for individuals with a variety of conditions.

Whether drivers use wheelchairs or not, attending Get Going Live! offers the unique opportunity to test drive vehicles around the historic and exciting Donington Park motorsport circuit for free.

This track is the location for the British Motorcycle Grand Prix and British Touring Car Championship and so promises an amazing experience.

Specialist professionals in dual-control vehicles will accompany every young driver, so they remain safe during test drives.

Leading motor manufacturers such as Ford, Vauxhall and Hyundai will have a range of specialist vehicles on display, both in the exhibition hall and on the test track.

Did you know if you have a disability, you can gain a driving licence a year earlier at the age of 16?

Visiting Get Going Live! will provide all the information required to achieve driving independence and visitors will even be able to try out the theory test.

This year Aaron Morgan, the only disabled racing driver to compete in the Production BMW Championships, will be at Get Going Live! as a show ambassador.

Amazing

Aaron said: "Get Going Live! promises to deliver an amazing and unique day out for all young visitors and their families.

"As I race at Donington Park, being able to test drive accessible cars around the motorsport circuit for free is an amazing experience not to be missed.

"Get Going Live! is a 'must attend' opportunity for young people who are looking for their first adapted car. I can highly recommend it as you can talk to experts and find out from other people about how they learnt to drive.

"I will be at the show and really look forward to helping other young people with disabilities get in the driving seat."

Show ambassador Callum Hodgson will also be available to answer questions about driving with a disability as he first discovered adapted hand controls at a previous show.

Also, as Get Going Live! is part of this year's Mobility Roadshow, visitors will be able to see the many independent living products and services from other exhibitors in the Donington Exhibition Hall.

There will be a vast range of products on display including wheelchairs, car boot hoists, ramps and in-vehicle safety systems.

Get Going Live! is co-hosted by the charities Mobility Choice and DMUK, supported by NFE group. To pre-register for a test drive or for further information on Get Going Live!, visit: www.mobilityroadshow.co.uk

'An amazing experience not to be missed'

Pumped up and pimped out Range Rover Sport

By James Parker

A regular supercharged Range Rover Sport not enough for you? Then try the first product to come from the newly-formed Special Vehicle Operations – the SVR.

At first glance, the Range Rover Sport SVR should be recognisable, if somewhat different from how you remember it. This is the pumped-up, pimped-out Sport, and while that might seem a world away from a typical Range Rover, the reality is buyers want more – which the SVR supplies in spades.

So with an SVR, you get 20in wheels (with the option of 21s) and other modest external flourishes including more vents at the front, side skirts and a large spoiler on top of the tailgate. More importantly there's more power under the bonnet from the 5.0-litre supercharged V8 and revised damper settings for better control.

The interior also gets some smart new seats and a retrim.

If it's subtle you're after, then the SVR might not be for you. Sure, finished in black you might mistake it for a standard car, but one brief blast from the exhaust will change all that. It squats on its huge wheels and the big front air vents – essential for cooling the engine and brakes – certainly give it some significant menace. It's clear that Land Rover is going Porsche chasing with the SVR, and although the name tag is new, it probably won't be long before the SVR logo signifies business.

Happily the SVR doesn't give away much in the way of practicality compared to the standard Range Rover Sport. The only concession is the reshaped rear seat, while still offering three seat belts is really optimised for two. However, there's still plenty of space front and rear, and although it's not as big as a full-size Range Rover, you should be able to deal with most eventualities. It even retains a useful amount of off-road ability; quite a lot more than anyone spending this much money would dare use in any case.

Snarl

Right from the moment you start the engine, the SVR lets you know that performance is the name of the game. There's a snarl from the exhaust that wouldn't be out of place in something with two seats, and there's the performance to back it up; the SVR has 543bhp to power it along and you hear every single one of them as it tears along.

For a car weighing 2.3 tonnes, the SVR is hilariously fast.

It doesn't fall apart when you try to do something other than go in a straight line either. Sure it's tall, but the steering is sharper than the standard car and helps you accurately place it on the road. The suspension changes are modest, but the SVR can be hurled about with impressive ease for something so large, and the brakes are more than a match for the performance.

Ultimately it's huge fun, but capable of being calm and controlled when you need it to be.

Make no mistake, the SVR is an expensive car; £93,450 before options to be precise, but then you are in no doubt that you're getting a lot for your money. The sporty new seats, leather everywhere, a slick infotainment system (although there's a high-end Meridian system for another £5,000), climate control, reversing camera – you name it. It's worth remembering at this end of the market, price isn't so much of an issue as it is a badge of honour.

Anyone who thinks the standard Range Rover Sport Supercharged – 0-62mph in 5.5 seconds and 155mph flat out – isn't quite fast enough will love the SVR, and while that might seem like a pretty small audience, the truth is the SUV market continues to grow whether you're spending £10,000 or £100,000.

It's no harder to live with than any other Range Rover (with the possible exception of petrol station visits) yet is undoubtedly more fun than any other.

This car summed up in a single word: Grunty.

If this car was a: Top Gear presenter, it would be looking for a new vjob.

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Golden trip celebrates 50 years of iconic Ford

By Sharon Walters

Ford's golden convoy of Transits celebrating 50 years of the van icon has started a tour around dealerships, events and other shows until the commercial vehicle leader's actual anniversary on the weekend of Aug 8/9.

The tour by gold-coloured Transit Courier, Connect, Custom and two-tonne Transit models marks five decades of loyal service to businesses in UK and around the world.

Since the first vehicle left the production line in Langley, England, on August 9, 1965, almost eight million Transit and Transit Custom models have been built, and the Transit has grown from a single model to an entire family of Transit vans.

Lined up end-to-end, 50 years of Transits would circle the globe, and on average a new Transit has been bought every 180 seconds during its lifetime.

The latest expanded Transit line-up features four all-new models – Transit, Transit Custom, Transit Connect and Transit Courier – which are boosting demand for Ford commercial vehicles, with sales at an all-time high in March up 43 per cent at 16,497, compared with March 2014.

Essential

"The Ford Transit has touched the lives of most of us," said Mark Ovenden, chairman and managing director, Ford of Britain.

"From house moves to moving people, the Ford Transit is an essential tool to get the job done.

"It has become a mobile office or workshop for some – and loved by us all."

Launched in the same year that the first person walked in space, the Transit made an immediate impact, providing practical support to the booming economy. The Transit evolved with a vast range of bodystyles and variants: from the parcel van, through tipper trucks and campers, to outrageous one-offs, including the Cosworth V8-powered Supervans.

Growing popularity saw production of the Transit accelerate, and after passing the first million milestone in 1976, it rapidly passed the next ones in 1985, 1994, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2013.

Add demand for the smaller Transit Connect – with more than one million sold – and the compact all-new Transit Courier, and total Transit production is scheduled to top nine million during 2015.

Improve

Transit has also introduced a list of technology innovations to help improve performance, comfort and safety; from features like side-loading doors, radial ply tyres and halogen headlights, to direct injection diesel engines, high security locks and standard anti-lock brakes.

The latest Transit models have added state-of-the-art technologies like Adaptive Cruise Control and Lane Keeping Aid.

The success of the Transit has seen production expand beyond Europe, including facilities in Nanchang, China and in 2014 the Transit entered North America for the first time, with the all-new two-tonne Transit being built in Kansas City, Mo.

This has helped extend the all-new Transit to 118 markets across six continents.

"Ford's Transit family continues to lead the way in innovation," Ovenden said.

"With 50 years of van sales leadership in the UK under its belt, the new four-van Transit range is looking forward to its next half century."

Audi's new A6 may well have just hit sweet spot

By Matt Kimberley

Thrilling it isn't, but the new Audi A6 is a wonderful everyday drive nonetheless.

It feels like the A6 has been around since Moses, but there are specific updates for this year.

Technophiles will like the new LED headlight options, including the fantastic Matrix LED units that blank off individual LEDs to maintain main beam illumination while avoiding dazzling other drivers.

Amazingly, the windscreen and front side windows are now double glazed as standard.

There's also a smoothly-integrated new infotainment system with more features, and of course engine revisions that take the most economical A6 up to 67.3mpg and 109g/km – but only in the right specification.

Not much has changed outwardly unless you care to break out your electron microscope, but versions with LED headlights, like this S line car, don't need fog lights any more.

The function is built into the complex LED units, so you won't see pointless extra lamps on the front.

The A6 has a deservedly superb image, whether it's as a long-legged company car or as a carry-all premium family bus.

It's well known for its refinement, materials quality and comfort – and all three are borne out with this 2015 update.

The Avant estate model is obviously the bigger of the two chief body styles, packing enough space for more or less anything you're likely to need to carry.

With the rear seats folded down there are van-like proportions to play with, but the normal boot area alone is enough for pushchairs, big suitcases or smaller pieces of furniture.

A nice touch is a cupholder design that grips containers firmly and stops them tilting.

Mechanically speaking, the car is also a great fit for the S tronic automatic gearbox, which helps waft the A6 along with dignity and quiet restraint.

It's supremely welcome in traffic, too, removing the strain often felt by your left leg.

A butter-smooth drivetrain is perfect for the A6.

It hums along so creamily, it's hard to believe that just a decade ago Audi was still using the clattery old TDI PD engines.

The latest common-rail 2.0-litre diesel is a marvellous thing, if lacking a little in outright punch in this car.

The ride is comfy enough, despite the 18-inch wheels here, and you immediately notice how big and stable it feels both in a straight line and through corners, where it grips like a barnacle to a boat.

Intelligent design means that the gearbox holds lower gears when going downhill, for example, to help with engine braking.

On the downside, the steering is rather elastic-feeling and doesn't have any real sense of connection to the front wheels.

The harder you drive along winding roads, the worse it seems to get.

The silver lining is that it's light and responsive at low speeds, making car parks lighter work than they might be.

Or you could just let the car park itself; you just need to select Drive and Reverse when the car tells you.

S line trim, the Avant body style and the S tronic gearbox bump this car's price up a few thousand pounds, but by A6 standards, it's not that pricey at all.

It might just be a sweet spot in the range, too, with maximum practicality, enough comfort and luxury and low running costs.

We managed just short of 52mpg on a 40-minute loop of mixed roads. Not bad for a big ol' barge like the A6.

This is such an effective all-rounder that many different types of people might buy it, for overlapping reasons.

Families who need space and technology, and business users who want comfort and prestige, are the primary groups likely to make a bee-line straight for the Ultra TDI version. And they'd be wise to do so.

This car summed up in a single word: Serene

If this car was a chauffeur it would arrive wearing an immaculate suit before demonstrating impeccable manners out on the road.

TESTED

Audi A6 Avant TDI Ultra S line, £37,935
Engine: 2.0-litre diesel producing 187bhp and 295lb/ft
Transmission: Seven-speed automatic driving all four wheels
Performance: Top speed 140mph, 0-62mph in 8.5 seconds
Economy: 57.6mpg combined (18-inch wheels)
Emissions: 115g/km of CO2 (18-inch wheels)

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deaths

ARCHER
Richard
Archie

Slipped peacefully away at home on Friday, April 17, aged 71 years.

Devoted Husband to Doris, loving Father to Sonya and Jason. Beloved Gramps to Jamie, Brad, Madison and Maisie.

A celebration of his life will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at St. Lukes Church at 1.00pm and Stafford Crematorium at 2pm, and afterwards at The Barns.

Family flowers only, donations for The Cancer Care Unit, North Staffs Hospital.

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Cannock.
01543 572644.

ARCHER
Richard

The Angels gathered near your bed, so very close to you.

For they knew the pain and suffering you were going through.

I thought about so many things, as I tightly held your hand.

Oh I wish you were strong and happy once again.

But your eyes were looking homeward, to that place beyond the sky.

Where God held His outstretched arms, it was time to say good-bye.

I struggled with selfish thoughts, for I wanted you to stay.

So we could walk and talk like we did yesterday.

But God knew the answer and I knew He loved you so.

So I gave to you life's greatest gift, the gift of letting go.

Love you so much

Dossy

X X X

ARCHER
Richard
Dad

God took the strength of a mountain, the majesty of a tree.

The warmth of a summer sun, the calm of a quiet sea.

The generous soul of nature, the comforting arm of night.

The wisdom of the ages, the power of the eagles flight.

The joy of a morning in spring, the faith of a mustard seed.

The patience of eternity, the depth of a Family need.

Then God combines these qualities when there was nothing more to add,

He knew His masterpiece was complete and so He called it Dad.

Brokenhearted Son Jason.

X X X

ARCHER
Richard
Dad

I have to admit that I was a daddy's girl,

he told me that he loved me better than anything else in the world.

When I became a woman, he walked me down the aisle,

and gave me away with a bittersweet smile.

And when I gave birth, he was there too,

to greet my little ones and say, Hello, I love you.

And now that man who loved me and wrapped me in his arms so strong,

has gone where I can't reach him, but my love for him lives on.

I'll keep his memory alive and honour all he believed,

and just feel very grateful for all his love that I received.

Sleep tight Dad.

Heartbroken Daughter Sonya, and Son-in-Law David.

X X X

ARCHER
Richard
Gramps

The most difficult good bye to someone who has always put me on the right track.

Put me right when I was wrong, always laughing and joking.

Larger than life and always smiling, someone who has got me where I am today. Someone I'll forever look up to.

Not just my Grandad, but my best friend.

R.I.P Gramps

Brad.

X X X

ARCHER
Richard
Grandpa

A Grandpa is someone with silver in his hair and gold in his heart.

Night God bless.

Maisie and Madison.

X X X

ARCHER
Richard
Gramps

You never complained, you never gave in. You fought a battle you couldn't win.

Now for you it's time to rest. Only to be remembered as the best.

Forever remembered, forever missed. Rest in Peace Gramps.

Love Jamie and Kathryn.

X X X

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT
CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 11.30am every Tuesday for the same weeks edition.

BURKE
Frederick Alan
(Alan)

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, aged 65 years.

Loving Husband of Angela and devoted Dad of Jonathan. Sadly missed by all his Family and Friends.

His Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday, May 6, at 2pm, at Stafford Crematorium.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DW
01543 502322

CARTER
Joan

Peacefully passed away April 17, 2015 at Briar Hill Nursing Home, aged 91.

She will be sadly missed by Daughters Val and Chris and all her loving Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to take place 10am, on Friday, May 8, 2015 at Stafford Crematorium.

Donations for CLICK Sargent for Children with Cancer may be sent to

The co-operative funeralcare
17 Brereton Road, Rugeley, Staffs, WS15 1DS
04589 58254 5

CASON
Prebendary Father Ronald Arthur
(Ron)

Passed away peacefully at Talbot House Nursing Home, Tuesday, April 14, 2015, aged 87 years.

The Funeral Service is to take place on Wednesday, May 6, at St. Michael's Church, Brereton at 3.00pm, followed by the Committal within the Churchyard.

Family flowers only please, any donations kindly received will be given to St. Michael's Church.

For any further information please contact

BRUCE WALKER
Funeral Directors
33 Market Street,
Rugeley. WS15 2JH.
Telephone 01889 584513.

DUDSON
Norman

Passed away at his home on Saturday, April 11, 2015, aged 73 years.

Norman will be sadly missed by the Family, but will be reunited with his beloved Wife Josie.

The Funeral Service will be held at Stafford Crematorium on Tuesday May 5, 2015, at 12.30.

Family flowers only, any donations, if desired, to The Heart Foundation.

Funeral inquiries c/o

HALLIWELL FUNERAL SERVICES.
70, Hednesford Road
Heath Hayes
01543 459200.

FRICKER
Norman

Passed away peacefully after a long illness bravely borne, on April 22, 2015, in Stoke Hospital.

Funeral Service at 2.30pm, on Wednesday, May 6, at Stafford Crematorium and afterwards at the Cross Keys Pub, Hednesford.

Flowers welcome or donations towards a Riverside Memorial Bench.

GREEB
Eileen Florence

Passed away peacefully at Abbey Court Nursing Home on April 22, 2015, aged 87 years.

Eileen will be sadly missed by all her loving Family.

Funeral Service will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2015, at 11.30am, at Stafford Crematorium.

Eileen is now resting in a private Chapel of Repose at HALLIWELL FUNERAL SERVICE
70 Hednesford Road
Heath Hayes
Cannock
Staffs WS12 3EA
01543 459200.

HUMPHREYS
Marjorie
(nee Jones)

Sadly passed away Friday, April 24.

Lovingly remembered Wife of John, Mother of Michael and Jayne, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.

Her Funeral Service will take place 2pm, Wednesday, May 6, at Stafford Crematorium.

Sleeping now and at peace.

Family flowers only but donations would be appreciated for St.Giles c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DW
01543 502322

LOMAS
Joan
(Peggy)

Aged 92 years.

Devoted Mum, Nan and Great-Grandma.

Sadly passed away April 19, 2015.

Dearly missed, forever in our hearts and loved always.

Funeral to take place at Stafford Crematorium, 10am, May 7.

All welcome.

Family flowers only.

Donations to the Air Ambulance.

God bless.

Dawn, Harvey and their Families.

MAIDEN
Irene May

Of Hednesford, passed away peacefully, on April 26, 2015, aged 88 years.

Will be sadly missed by all Family and Friends.

Funeral Service will take place at Stafford Crematorium, on Tuesday, May 5, at 10.30am.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the British Heart Foundation c/o

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

ROBINSON
Linda
Of Cannock.

Passed away peacefully with Family at her side at St. Giles Hospice, on April 23, 2015 aged 60 years.

Will be deeply missed by all her Family and Friends.

Service will be held at Stafford Crematorium, on Wednesday, May 6, at 11.am.

Family flowers only.

Donations to Chemotherapy Unit at County Hospital c/o Funeral Directors.

The Funeral care has been entrusted to

FARAGHER MAGUIRE
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Brindley House,
75, Broadhurst Green,
Hednesford,
Telephone 01543 879866.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOMPSON
Dorothy
(Dottie)
Of Norton Canes.

Passed away at home surrounded by her loving Family on Sunday, April 19, 2015, aged 93 years.

Dorothy will be sadly missed by all her Family.

Funeral Service will take place on Friday, May 1, 2015, at 1.30pm, at St. James Church, Norton Canes, followed by Burial in the Churchyard.

Dorothy is now resting in a Private Chapel of Repose at
HALLIWELL
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70, Hednesford Road,
Heath Hayes,
Cannock.
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01543 459200.

TUCKLEY
Roy

Sadly passed away Saturday, April 18, 2015, aged 82 years.

Much loved and missed by his Family and all his many Friends.

Following a Private Family Cremation, a Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Luke's Church, Cannock on Thursday, April 30, at 12.30pm where all are welcome.

Family flowers only please.

Donations if desired for St. Giles Hospice and the Staffordshire Masonic Benevolent Fund.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
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79 Church Street,
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in memoriam

DUNNING
Sheila Muriel

Passed away April 28, 2010.

Sleep peacefully She.

Our forever love

Doug and Louise

X X X

ONIONS
Steve

Two years ago May 4.

Two years have passed but it still feels like yesterday.

You're in our hearts and minds every day.

Love as always,

Liz and Family.

X X X

acknowledgements

BEAVERS
Joyce May

The Family of the late Joyce May Beavers would like to thank everyone for their support and condolences at this very sad time and thank everyone for the donations which totalled £650 for The British Lung Foundation.

GRIFFITHS
John

Irene and Linda would like to thank Family and Friends for their sympathy and kind words, cards, and donations totalling £300 to Cancer Research.

Halliwells for providing Funeral arrangements and Dave Webster for a lovely service.

lost & found

LOST—on Saturday, large bunch of keys between New Street, Hill Top and Blacklake. Reward if found. 07938 842569.

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kitchens & bathrooms

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OAP discount. Recession Prices.
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DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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LAURAS TACK BOX Massive relocation SALE starts Saturday 28th March. Call now on: 07949 943933/ 01543 277688.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

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pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BRITISH BULL DOG Bitch, 9 months old, full pedigree, papers and vaccinations upto date. £1,000. 07881 375190.

KOI CARP for sale, upto 24 inch, genuine calls only. Please call 07857 893607.

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vets

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So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

business opportunities

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Brain stagnation setting in but can't take a job because of children?
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INTERESTED? 07808 211817

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7 Jobs

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8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FORD KA 2006, 11 months MoT, 69,000 miles, red. £695. 07719 438082.

FORD KA ZETEC CLIMATE 3dr hatchback, MoT Jan 2016, 2007, very good condition. £1,150 ono. 0121 537 1871 / 07908 619417.

FORD MONDEO ZETEC S 2001, 89,500 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, CD player, great runner, heated front screen. Couple of minor dings. £995 ono.
07967 540494.

HONDA CRV 2 litre, 1999, 151,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, sunroof, CD, towbar, Cobra alarm. £800.
07825 334505.

HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.3 2001, 66,570 miles, Green, Good runner, Genuine reason for sale, MoT. £695 ono. 07805 691507.

PEUGEOT 206 GLX, 1.5, 5dr, W reg in silver, 77,000 miles, 1 former keeper, 12 months MoT, excellent, £595. 07984 141652.

PEUGEOT 206 HDi diesel, superb reliable, full MoT, service history, real eye catcher, £1,150. 07512 844586.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 convertible, lady owner, bought new 2003, silver / black roof, MoT, 120k miles, £995. 07973 346941.

VW SHARAN 1.9 TDi, R reg, 1998, PAS, A/C, C/L, MoT. A few electrical problems. £550 ono. Call 07717 373236.

cars over £1500

AUDI A4 CABRIOLET
2007, 91,000 Miles, Silver, abs, elec. windows, elec. mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, Alloys, Stereo, CD,Leather Interior, Parrott Handsfree
£5,499 ono
07514233157

BEETLE, 2001, silver, long MoT, good condition, for quick sale, £1,295. o.n.o. 07852 989076.

SELLING YOUR CAR?
We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
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MoT December 15. FSH.
Alloys. Electric heated mirrors.
Electric windows x 4.
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Radio/cd/mp 3 plus extras.
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EARLY LEARNERS CANNOCK: Immediate starts Acting NURSERY MANAGER 32 hrs/wk OOS SUPERVISOR 15 hrs/wk Information pack tel: 07908 742408

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PCV COACH DRIVERS required. Full & part time to cover a full range of duties: school contracts & private hire with occasional tours. Application form can be requested from our website: www.wicksons.co.uk or by calling 01543 372247.

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HONDA JAZZ
1.4 ESi VETEC
December 2009. 17.5k.
New condition.
MoT December 15. FSH.
Alloys. Electric heated mirrors.
Electric windows x 4.
A/C. PAS. VSA.
Radio/cd/mp 3 plus extras.
£5,650.
01543 453031 / 07548 267104.

PEUGEOT 307CC Convertible, black, 2L, 4,800mls from new, full MoT and service. £4,250 ono. 0121 526 4793.

RENAULT MEGANE CABRIOLET
04-2004, 75k Miles, silver, electric windows, airbags, long MoT, auto lights, new cambelt, hard roof, nice condition
£1,695 ono
07447357561

commercial vehicles

MERCEDES SPRINTER PICK-UP, lwb, 313CDi, 60 reg, 14ft drop side, white, £7,250. 07836 568903.

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Homer's
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10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
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MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
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VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED, FREE COLLECTION WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
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spares & accessories

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

Cannock Chase Council

THE COUNCIL IS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING PROPOSALS
Telecommunications Development
CH/15/0127
Base Station, Watling Street, Cannock

Telecommunication Development:- Extension of the existing 17.5m high lattice mast to a 20m high lattice mast, the installation of a new headframe containing 6 antennas and the addition of ancillary equipment.

All applications may be inspected at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Applications relating to Rugeley and Brereton may also be inspected at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley

The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the Planning Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge.

If you wish to make comments or representations about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG or by emailing to developmentcontrol@cannockchasedc.gov.uk by 14/05/2015 Please include a daytime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate reference when calling or writing.

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

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Call now for the best price on your house

- Guaranteed offer*
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A guaranteed offer, no fees, fast completion, any condition, any circumstances

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We are just a phone call away

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the name you can trust
Harrison Fowler
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No obligation
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Fast completion

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QUICK AND EASY
call Alex
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Anytime

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THE BEST OFFER ON YOUR HOUSE 24/7
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DON'T DELAY CALL TODAY
for a fast cash offer
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6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

CANNOCK Large 2-Bed Flat, fitted kitchen. Available immediately. £475pcm. No DSS. 07971 560336.

HOUSE FOR RENT, Modern 4-bedroomed, Colliers Way, Huntington, Cannock. Parking for 2 cars. £700pcm. No DSS. 07971 560336.

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houses for sale

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Welshpool Area,
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Reduced £49,950
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properties wanted

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Batth looks to make a comeback in new season

WOLVES captain Danny Batth is targeting the opening game of next season for his comeback from injury as he heads for surgery today.

The Molineux skipper says he can be better than ever when he comes back from his season-ending foot fracture.

And Batth has revealed his rehabilitation work has already started as he looks to lead the team out in their opening game of the new campaign despite being ruled out of action until well into pre-season.

Batth will be a frustrated spectator as Wolves look to upset the odds on Saturday by claiming a place in the Champions play-offs on the final day of the campaign.

But the 24-year-old said: "Sometimes it is about the kind of person you are as to how you deal with things and manage things.

"I had a bad shoulder injury in my first year full-time in the academy and that took eight months.

"I was working in the gym and I broke down and then came back again and got myself back in good shape and this will be no different.

"It's a case of going for the operation and building up post-op.

"I have been doing work already on the damaged side of the foot before going under the knife which will hopefully help reduce the time I need to come back.

"I could have gone away all summer, come back in pre-season, and maybe done it then.

"It's obviously disappointing to end the season now but to get this operation and the work in the summer gives me a good chance to be ready for the start of next season."

Sako will get new deal whatever

BAKARY SAKO will be offered a new deal by Wolves – even if they remain in the Championship.

And Benik Afobe won't be allowed to "slip through their fingers", as boss Kenny Jackett came out fighting.

Sako is a target for Villa and possibly Albion again plus several foreign clubs when his contract expires this summer. Wolves aren't prepared to match Sako's £25,000-a-week wages, but for the first time publicly, Jackett says the 26-year-old will be offered fresh terms to stay even if they don't go up.

"Yes we will," said Jackett when asked. "We'll certainly be talking to him in the summer.

"I want him to stay but there will be no discussions until the end of the season and we know where we are."

Jackett is also happy for the situation to drag on if they have a chance of keeping their 14-goal top scorer.

"If there's a chance of keeping him you'd probably take that chance," he said.

"According to reports, there seems to be quite a few options. But he has to do the best for him, his career and his family."

Afobe has been linked with Albion and Crystal Palace after topping the country's scoring charts with 31 goals this season and has proved a huge hit since his £2m arrival from Arsenal, netting 12 in 19 for Wolves. But Jackett says Wolves intend to keep him and add quality around him.

"We haven't signed him permanently to then let him slip through our fingers," said the boss.

"Our plans are to keep him and get the rest of the side as strong as we can.

"It's not our intention to let him go and the chairman and the board would need a lot of persuading because they're here to achieve and sustain Premier League football.

"We've given him a good platform here, a position he's thrived on, and we've built a team around him, but want to keep adding." Jackett isn't aware of any serious interest in the 22-year-old.

Dyer gets hard-fought winner for the Blues

Blues 1 Charlton 0

LLOYD Dyer emerged as Birmingham's match-winner in a hard-fought 1-0 Championship success over Charlton.

Dyer, a second-half substitute, demonstrated his shooting ability with a 20-yard angled shot in the 82nd minute which plunged plucky Charlton to only their second away defeat in six games.

Birmingham's win mirrored the success which has been generated since the appointment of Gary Rowett.

He has been inspirational and following their midweek success at Reading it was hardly a surprise that Birmingham were always in an attacking mood.

This was reflected in the fourth minute when Robert Tesche produced a speculative long-range swirling shot which Stephen Henderson tipped on to the outside of the post.

Johann Berg Gudmundsson attempted a similar tactic for Charlton but it lacked the power to pose any real problem for goalkeeper Darren Randolph.

There was a spark of inspiration from Demarai Gray but the youngster was effectively stopped in his tracks by former Birmingham stalwart Roger Johnson.

Youngster Gray is used sparingly by Rowett, who likes to restrict him to home games when he is given to shine in front of the club's fans.

His first effort was easily saved by Henderson while his second curling attempt hit the outside of the post.

It was a fair reflection of the game that Charlton were always a danger.

Wood win double over rivals Hayes

Walsall Wood 3 Heath Hayes 0

WOOD completed the league double over relegated Heath Hayes.

To give them their credit Hayes kept battling away, even when they went 3-0 down within 10 minutes of the start of the second half.

It was a lively start by both sides, but it was Wood threatened first when after only two minutes Corey Currithers made space wide left before cutting back into the box and attempted to fire across keeper Mark Wiggins who got a hand to the shot and pushed the ball away.

A neat left to right move across the face of the box on eight minutes by the visitors ended with Matty Barnett firing in a first time low drive, Mario Kisiel saving at the foot of the right hand post.

The reply was almost immediate, Joey Butlin finding Currithers to flick the ball through a static defence, Wiggins quickly off his line to take the bouncing ball away from Max Black.

On 16 minutes Craig Deakin went on a marauding run wide left, his far post cross inches away from Butlin as he raced into the six yard box.

Challenge

It was Charlie Ware getting clear of the Wood defence on 26 minutes and racing into the box, Shawn Boothe getting back to get in an important, albeit untidy challenge.

The ball found its way out to Craig Deakin who put Currithers away wide left, he cut inside, rolled the ball across the six yard box for Harry Harris to calmly open the scoring.

Defences were on top for the rest of the half which quietly came to an end.

Wood had the better of the early exchanges in the second half, increased their lead on 51 minutes, Currithers played a long ball, keeper Wiggins at full stretch couldn't hold it and it dropped behind him, Black tapped it in .

It got worse for the visitors when Butlin fired the ball home.

On 62 minutes Currithers was strong on the right of the box before cutting back inside and firing in a vicious low drive that brought a great save from Wiggins. There was an interesting last 20 minutes, without either keeper being troubled.

Team changes but result doesn't

Chasetown and Kidsgrove players going up for the ball during the away clash

Kidsgrove 2 Chasetown 0

FOUR teenagers started for Chasetown at Kidsgrove.

Law made nine changes to the side that lost to Gresley in midweek with only full-backs Josh Smith and Jon Haynes keeping their places and three members of the club's Scholarship in the side.

Debutant Shahriq Ajmal was the pick of the new players terrorising Grove left-back Ryan Brown with some mesmerising runs while defender George Dixon kept veteran striker Dave Walker quiet for much of the game.

Chasetown's best chances fell to Cameron Stuart from long range while Jono Gould forced Joe Hemmings into a low save.

Kidsgrove caught Chasetown on the break at the start of the second half with Matt Bell turning the ball home following a flowing move. Hemmings saved well from Nick Turton at his near post and then Warren Holmes bravely blocked a drive from Jelson Antonio.

Kidsgrove doubled their lead through substitute William Booth and the visitors saw out the game with 10 men after Stuart saw red for two yellow cards.The result meant Chasetown finished 13th in the Evo-Stik Division One South.

O'Donnell's future in his own hands

DEAN SMITH claims Walsall have done everything possible to keep Richard O'Donnell after the goalkeeper was left out for the first time since joining the club.

The Saddlers' number one had made 105 consecutive appearances since arriving at the Banks's in July 2013 before being replaced between the sticks by youngster Craig MacGillivray for Saturday's 2-0 home win over Oldham.

O'Donnell is out of contract at the end of the season and yet to indicate whether he will accept a new deal.

Smith insists Saturday's decision was not influenced by that situation and he remains in the dark as to what decision the keeper will make.

"It is down to Richard and his agent," he said. "We have done everything we can. It is part and parcel of football."

We are going for the win not revenge, Smith

DEAN Smith insists Walsall will not treat Sunday's League One finale at Bristol City as a revenge mission.

The fixture is a repeat of last month's Johnstone's Paint Trophy final, which the Robins won 2-0. Steve Cotterill's team have since completed the double and will be presented with the League One trophy after Sunday's game.

But while Smith has not tried to conceal disappointment with how his own side performed at Wembley, he insists it will not be a source of motivation.

"We have no point to prove about Wembley," he said. "We want to go and finish as high as we can in the league. It would be nice to finish the season unbeaten in the last eight games.

"We will go there, as we always do, to try to win the game."

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Beacon triumph by six wickets

Cannock 1sts 141-9 Beacon 1sts 145-4
Beacon won by 6 wkts

CANNOCK slipped to a six wicket defeat at home to Beacon after a below par batting performance saw their innings close at 141-9 with Wes Marshall scoring 63 and James Caswell 24.

Beacon reached their target for the loss of just four wickets with Connor Shingler shining as the pick of the Cannock bowlers and taking 2 for 33 during his spell.

Cannock 2nds 163 Beacon 2nds 276-5
Beacon won by 113 runs

Cannock travelled to Beacon and were comfortably beaten on a good batting wicket. Cannock fielded first with John Cooke taking all of five wickets that fell as Beacon posted the substantial total of 276-5.

In reply Cannock never really looked like winning and were all out for just 163. Tom Bull stood out with the top score of 43 and Matt Davenport scored 31.

Cannock 3rds 151 Coseley 2nds 116 -3
Coseley winning draw

Cannock hosted Coseley and batting first scored 151 all out with debutant Martin Davies (40) and Jamie Fleet (37) leading the way.

With an hour lost to rain Coseley required 107 for the winning draw but despite being well behind the required run rate for most of their innings, they accelerated in the last few overs to be able to reach the winning draw target.

Cannock 4ths 101 for 0 Hammerwich 4ths 100 all out
Cannock won by 4 wickets

Cannock travelled to Hammerwich and came away with a comprehensive 10 wicket victory.

Fielding first, Cannock's opening bowler Tom Hinks 5-17 and Ian Forrester 4-19 restricted Hammerwich to a score of just 100.

In reply Ollie Clellands (52no) maiden half century, well supported by Mark Boden (25no), which completed a comfortable win for the Cannock squad.

Man City kills off comeback for Villa

Man City 3 Villa 2

SUBSTITUTE Fernandinho struck a late winner as Manchester City killed off Villa's comeback to claim a frantic 3-2 victory at the Etihad Stadium.

City looked to have thrown away victory as Villa recovered from 2-0 down with second-half goals from Tom Cleverley and Carlos Sanchez but Fernandinho had the final word in the 89th minute.

Goalkeeper Brad Guzan when, seemingly under no pressure, badly miskicked a Ron Vlaar backpass and effectively gave Aguero an open goal.

Naturally, City's ace marksman accepted the chance and slid home his 27th goal of the season with just three minutes on the clock.

City showed more purpose after the restart, with Navas breaking to the byline but finding no-one as he pulled the ball back across goal.

They looked to have made the game safe with Kolarov's superb free-kick after Fernandinho was felled 30 yards from goal in the 66th minute. The set-piece was cleverly disguised as Milner faked and Kolarov bent a low shotwhich gave Guzan no chance.

A free-kick to Villa caused problems in the City box and Jack Grealish's cross was only half-cleared. Cleverley came running on to the loose ball outside the area and drove a shot through several bodies and past Hart.

Another nightmare seemed to be unfolding for City when Hart flapped at a corner five minutes from time and Sanchez took full advantage.

Fernandinho drove home the winner.

Pitmen's season just fizzles out

Brackely Town 1 Hednesford Town 0

IT was another afternoon to forget for Hednesford Town as the season fizzled out to a disappointing end at Brackley Town.

The home side secured their Conference North survival late on in the second period – condemning the Pitmen to their sixth defeat in their last eight games.

Brackley had the first chance of the game when defender Stuart Pierpoint headed over the bar in the second minute.

This spurred the visitors into life and five minutes later Jamey Osborne saw a low shot saved from 25 yards.

Hednesford continued to probe forward at every attempt with James Hurst seeing a low driven effort saved by the goalkeeper in the 17th minute before the home side's David Moyo had half a chance only to drag his effort wide from the edge of the box.

The Pitmen should really have gone ahead in the 33rd minute when striker Nick Rushton got clear but he saw his shot blocked and Lloyd Kerry couldn't turn the ball home from the edge of the box.

Right on the stroke of half-time the visitors had another half-chance but Glenn Walker headed over the bar at the back post.

Wonderful

Eight minutes into the second half, Pierpoint almost opened the scoring only for Hednesford goalkeeper Dan Crane to make a wonderful save to turn the ball behind.

Although the intensity from the Pitmen wasn't quite the same in the second period, Osborne saw another low driven shot turned around the post for a corner after driving forward from the halfway line.

As Colwyn Bay, the team one place below Brackley in the relegation zone, continued to increase their

lead the home knew they needed a goal and pushed four men forward.

The Pitmen backline, marshalled by stand-in defender Richard Batchelor looked pretty comfortable

with what the home side were throwing at them though clearing a number of corners and free kicks. Brackley's forward movements eventually paid dividends with 14 minutes to go. Substitute striker Ryan Rowe managed to find half a yard inside the Hednesford box and he drilled the ball home from 15 yards to give his side the lead.

With three minutes to go Hednesford's afternoon went from bad to worse with Richard Batchelor being forced off with a rib injury, leaving the team with 10 men for the final few moments of the campaign.

Jamey Osborne going forward looking to keep control brushing off Frank Sinclair in the process

Brackley Town: Snedker, Pierpoint (Sharpe 67), Fitzsimons, Odhiambo, Sinclair (Rowe 60), Austin, Story, Whittall (Green 60), Moyo, Kaziboni, McDonald. **Subs not used:** Carruthers, Farrell

Hednesford Town: Crane, Hurst (Todd 46), Campion, Westwood, Thomas (Diggin 70), Walker, Osborne, Thorley, Rushton (Robinson 70), Kerry, Batchelor.

Plenty to ponder for Albion boss Pulis

Albion 0 Liverpool 0

TONY Pulis has plenty to ponder in the pivotal summer that lies ahead for Albion.

But for the time being, his first Baggies mission is almost complete.

When Pulis embarks on his first full season in charge, the Hawthorns faithful will demand more pace, more creativity and frankly more attacking intent than their side showed in a 90-minute borefest against Liverpool that replicated so many dismal games this season.

Yet a goalless draw and a crucial point against one of the leading clubs in the country represented, to a large degree at least, a job well done for Pulis and his players.

And that effort typified the job the Baggies have done since Pulis arrived on New Year's Day – a job that has left them all but safe from relegation with four games to go.

The position they find themselves in, seven points clear of the bottom three with four games remaining, has not come easy and has rarely been enjoyable to watch.

And Saturday's latest chapter was no different.

For 60 minutes it was a dreadful spectacle with Albion sitting deep to nullify comfortably a Liverpool side operating at testimonial pace.

And for the final half-hour all of the best facets of Pulis's Baggies team – the ones which were so mysteriously absent in their previous two home performances – came to the fore as the visitors finally generated a head of steam and their hosts stood firm to repel everything.

Nine clean sheets under the new boss says much.

Princely prize as side take spoils in cup

Lichfield & Walsall District Football League
Terry Smith cup final

PRINCE of Wales 2 New Inns FC 1

League One

Boney Hay 3 Saddlers Arms 0
Erdington Star 1 Dr.Johnson 5
Swan FC 1 Walsall Phoenix 0

League Two

Dog FC 2 Q-Bar 3
GS Rockets 4 Duke of Wellington 0
Oak Park Rangers 0 ASP Victoria 2

League Three

Green Rock Tav.3 Wych Elm FC 1
Queens Head 1 Ros Park FC 0
Willenhall 3 Crowns 1 Burntwood Town Res. 3

Golfer Tony hits elusive hole-in-one

A Cannock golfer has achieved the elusive a hole-in-one.

Tony Anderton, 26, scored his ace on the 176-yard, par-three ninth at the Chase GC, and the three-handicapper was rewarded with membership of the exclusive BOSS Watches H1Club and a specially-commissioned, commemorative timepiece.

He said: "I pulled out my seven-iron and hit my ball straight at the pin. I thought it had hit the flag, but I didn't actually see it go in from the tee.

"While another partner was hitting his shot, I looked through my rangefinder and couldn't see my ball on the green.

"As I was walking up towards the hole, I began to get a little excited and, as I peered in, there was my ball sitting in the cup," added Anderton.

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Sport

Double trouble for Hayes side

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Pitmen's season fizzles out

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Wolves take it right down to the wire

Wigan 0 Wolves 1

THE fact Wolves have taken the battle for a play-off spot right to the death is to their huge credit.

Largely written off in the week leading up to this pivotal fixture after three matches without a victory, they battled and scrapped their way back to winning ways.

It's still out of their hands, but as head coach Kenny Jackett said afterwards, they can only do their bit.

Jackett is the main figure for the visit of Millwall – to have any chance of achieving his aim for Wolves his old club must exit through the trapdoor into League One, all in his 100th game in charge.

Jackett says if Wolves miss out now they will have been unlucky, and statistics certainly back up his claim.

Wolves signed off their away campaign by producing a lesson in the fundamentals of Championship football.

The statistics show they had just 38 per cent possession, four shots to Wigan's 11 and three corners to their 10. But they got the crucial advantage where it counts, with Benik Afobe's 25th-minute goal separating the sides.

And they did it by grinding out a win against fired-up opponents who showed all the fight of a team desperately doing all they can to stay in the Championship.

The £2m striker Afobe only needed the slightest touch to glance home Bakary Sako's powerful free-kick after Scott Golbourne had been bundled over by Emmerson Boyce just outside the corner of the box.

That took the wind out of Wigan's sails but they remained dominant on the ball in their passing game under new boss Gary Caldwell.

Draw means the Lockmen are safe from the drop

Ellesmere 2 Willenhall Town 2

WILLENHALL are virtually safe from relegation after a 2-2 draw at Ellesmere Rangers in the West Midlands Premier.

Ellesmere keeper Mason Springthorpe was sent off early on for illegally denying a goalscoring opportunity.

But Brendan Price and Ryan Jones gave them a 2-0 lead at the break.

The Lockmen fought back and two goals in the final 14 minutes by Matt Dorgan forced the draw.

Ellesmere's Josh Parker was sent off seven minutes from time.

The Lockmen had eight players missing so it was a scratch side that returned from deepest Shropshire with the point that makes them all but safe from relegation.

The home side had the worst possible start when keeper Mason Springthorpe came to head clear a through ball, as he reached the edge of the area it bounced awkwardly and he instinctively caught the ball high above his head inches outside the area.

After long discussion with his assistant he decided that a goal-scoring opportunity had been denied.

Tired Khalsa manage to grab draw

Pegasus Juniors 1 Sporting Khalsa 1

Football

CHAMPIONS Sporting Khalsa limped through their fourth game in seven days and had to dig deep to salvage a draw against Pegasus Juniors.

The exploits of the last week – with another week of endurance to come – showed with tired legs and tired heads on display during the long trip to Hereford.

Without goalkeeper James Pemberton and skipper Lee Wherton, both injured during Thursday's JW Hunt Cup game against Tividale, Khalsa boss Ian Rowe once again shuffled his pack with under-21s goalkeeper Ben Czerepaninec coming in for his debut. But in a first half with little to recommend it, the home side had the best of what chances there were, with the exception of an effort by Sean Williams on seven minutes that flashed just wide of the post.

On 26 minutes, a Pegasus corner caused havoc in the Khalsa box and a chance fell to Kiea Cowley only for a great block by Paul Henley to deny what would surely have been a goal.

The second half saw the tempo step up against all physical odds, with the game opening up.

Williams and Chris Rabone combined well to set up Simeon Townsend, only for great defending by Pegasus to stop him in his tracks just after the restart and then Rogers just couldn't get the decisive touch when he pushed forward from a free kick.

A break by Pegasus led by Wood saw him set up Ben Price only for an unlucky bobble on an immaculate pitch to save Khalsa and on the hour, a shot by substitute Nicky Campbell was brilliantly saved by Nathan Phillips.

Pegasus took an unlikely lead on 68 minutes, Price finishing superblyl.

Khalsa did get parity on through Brad Lawley ..

SCHOLARS IN AN EPIC BATTLE

Walsall 4 Chasetown 3

WALSALL lifted the Walsall Senior Cup for the first time in their history beating a spirited Chasetown side that ran them all the way.

It took 120 minutes at the Banks's for the Saddlers to finally down their dogged opposition, with Amadou Bakayoko firing the winner midway through extra-time.

Matt Preston sent an early warning wide of John Bateman's goal, heading a Reece Flanagan free-kick wide before Flanagan had a go himself, driving well over from 30-yards.

The clearest opening came on 20 minutes, the Scholars this time knocking it around it midfield and Richard Davies was able to collect a give-and-go with Simon Brown before firing an effort narrowly wide.

Pressure

Walsall, with Dean Smith's assistant Richard O'Kelly in presence on the touchline, had their opening half summed up when, following intense high pressure, Bakayoko nodded to Flanagan who again blasted well-over from distance.

But there was a bit more zip about the host's play as they came out for the second period, and within six minutes the League One side breached the Chasetown defence,

Bakayoko was able to feed the ever-adventurous Rico Henry whose first-time cross was clinically swept home by Murphy.

The lead lasted merely five minutes,Chasetown broke down the right-hand side and some perseverance from Brown saw him bundled over by Kyle Rowley.

Brown picked himself up to thump the spot-kick straight down the middle, with Jezeph diving left.

Law's side turned the tie on its head on 68 minutes when a fast-paced break from Waite and Edwards led to the former putting the left-winger through, Edwards keeping his composure and slotting under Jezeph.

And the lead was extended two minutes later, Edwards swung in a free-kick from the right,

Simon Brown on the move for Chasetown against Walsall at the Banks's stadium

the Saddlers back-line could clear only as far as Davies who fired a volley back in.

The Saddlers gave themselves hope with 12 minutes remaining in what was proving to be a pulsating second-half, Flanagan this time left free-kick duty to Henry, who delivered an inch-perfect cross from the left that was met by Murphy and guided his header perfectly beyond Bateman.

The comeback was completed five minutes minutes later by Henry, the marauding full-back created his sides first two, this time jinking inside and playing a neat one-two with Murphy before his low strike deflected agonizingly beyond Bateman in the Chasetown goal. The Evo-Stik Division One South side did not lie down and went looking for a fourth, Edwards again providing good width down the left, swinging in a cross that Ashley Grayson could only help wide.

As the clock neared 90 the busy Liam Kinsella fired well over for the Saddlers before Bakayoko took far too much time when well-placed and was dispossessed.

On the stroke of half-time in extra-time the hosts finally edged ahead through Bakayoko, the powerful forward had grown into the game and profited on a Kouhyar miss-kick following good work from Baxendale to smash home the winner.

Survival is not certain, says Pulis

BOSS Tony Pulis has ordered Albion not to take Premier League survival for granted despite moving to the brink of safety against Liverpool on Saturday.

Pulis still insists the Baggies need 40 points to be secure after a goalless Hawthorns draw with Liverpool took them to 37 and left them seven clear of the drop zone with four games remaining.

"We had a poor set of results at home and that was most probably down to the mentality and listening to people saying we were safe with 33 points," said Pulis. People take their foot off the pedal and we're not good enough to do that. We have to be at 100 per cent all the time in every game we play.

"We have just played Liverpool, now we go on to Manchester United, we play Chelsea and Arsenal and Newcastle are in there.

"Every game is so tough in this league.

"I still think we've got to get to 40 points and that keeps you up most seasons.

"You can never take anything for granted. Just look at Leicester."

Albion's quest for safety comes against the backdrop of a possible takeover, with chairman Jeremy Peace awaiting possible bids from foreign investors who have shown in interest in buying his controlling stake.

"The chairman will keep that very close to his chest but he's told me if there's anything positive, he'll keep me informed," said Pulis. "He's a very astute man and he's said that if it's not sold by a certain time, that'll be it, he'll keep it and move forward."

Meanwhile, Pulis has confirmed pre-season preparations will start with a training camp in Austria, where he has previously taken Stoke and Palace.

Saddlers will get £150,000 boost

WALSALL are set for a £150,000 cash boost after former striker Troy Deeney helped Watford to the Premier League.

Deeney left the Banks's for Vicarage Road for around £500,000 in August 2010 but the deal included a clause which would see the Saddlers receive the six-figure sum should the striker fire the Hornets to promotion.

Watford ended their eight-year exile from the top flight on Saturday when they won 2-0 at Brighton to win automatic promotion, with Deeney on target.

Deeney put them on their way to victory and four points clear of third-placed Middlesbrough with one game left.

Walsall's cash injection would be gratefully received

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